Population and Public Health Branch
Atlantic Region

Repercussions of Poverty and of the Crisis in the Fisheries on the Health of Young People in the Acadian Peninsula

Ghislaine Foulem

2000

Health Canada

Canada

103-02355/

Repercussions of Poverty and of the Crisis in the Fisheries on the Health of Young People in the Acadian Peninsula

A documentary and community study prepared by the
Centre de Bénévolat de la Péninsule Acadienne Inc.

Ghislaine Foulem

Prepared for
Population and Public Health Branch,
Atlantic Regional Office
Health Canada

April 2000

The opinions expressed in this document are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the official views of Health Canada.

Également disponsible en français sous le titre, **Répercussions de la pauvreté et de la crise du secteur des pêches sur la santé des jeunes de la Péninsule acadienne**.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Centre de Bénévolat de la Péninsule Acadienne Inc. wanted to involve young people in the Acadian Peninsula in a concrete way in the documentary and community study on the repercussions of poverty and of the crisis in the fisheries on the health of young people in the Acadian Peninsula.

The Centre de Bénévolat de la Péninsule Acadienne Inc. and the Population and Public Health Branch, Atlantic Region, Health Canada, wish to thank the following persons for their support and dedication.

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PRODUCTION AND SECRETARIAL SUPPORT

Paula Robichaud
Guylaine Haché-Godin

We also wish to thank Ronald Duguay, Director of Student Services, Université de Moncton, Shippagan Campus, for his support in the process of selecting an observer for the campus. We are also grateful to Thérèse Finn-McGraw for her support regarding the selection of students from the community college.

The Centre de Bénévolat de la Péninsule Acadiennne Inc. would also like to thank the 52 young people from the Acadian Peninsula who so generously contributed by responding to the questionnaire and participating in the discussion groups.

Our final thanks go to Nicole Falardeau, Program Consultant, Population and Public Health Branch, Atlantic Regional Office, Health Canada. Her availability, support and direction greatly facilitated everyone's work.

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INTRODUCTION

For a number of years, the Acadian Peninsula has been confronted with major socio-economic difficulties. Already recognized as an economically disadvantaged region with a very high poverty level, the crisis in the fisheries and the repercussions of employment insurance reform have worsened an already precarious situation.

In the fall of 1999, the Atlantic Regional Office of Health Canada approached the Centre de Bénévolat de la Péninsule Acadiennne Inc. regarding the possibility of undertaking a study on the repercussions of poverty and the crisis in the fisheries on the health of young people in the Acadian Peninsula. In late January 2000, the details of the study were finalized.

From the start, the Centre de Bénévolat de la Péninsule Acadiennne Inc. decided to consult young secondary and post-secondary students and to involve them in the process. Accordingly, a Youth Advisory Team of six young people was formed. A young female student from the Université de Moncton and a young male student from the community college were recruited to observe the work accomplished during the study.

A questionnaire was distributed to about 50 students at the secondary and post-secondary levels in the Acadian Peninsula. These young people also participated in discussion groups which met at the high schools in the region, at the community college and on the campus of the university.

1. PROFILE OF THE ACADIAN PENINSULA

The Acadian Peninsula is located in northeastern New Brunswick and covers approximately 2,000 square kilometres. It includes six civil parishes, Caraquet, Inkerman, Paquetville, Saint-Isidore, Saumarez and Shippagan, and to the west, the area of Grande-Anse, including the western part of the parish of New Bandon.[1] According to the 1996 census, the population of the Acadian Peninsula was 49,410 – the fourth largest region in New Brunswick after Saint John, Moncton and Fredericton.

With about 85% of its population living in settlements of less than 2,000 habitants, the Acadian Peninsula is a rural region that includes 13 municipalities and 41 local service districts. In ethnic and linguistic terms, it is homogeneous (94% francophone) and over over 90% of the inhabitants state that they are Roman Catholic.[2]

The economy of the Acadian Peninsula is based mainly on seasonal industries, with fishing being the main activity.

Over the last decade, there have no doubt been more studies, research projects, analyses and proposals regarding the socio-economic revival of the Acadian Peninsula than any other rural region in the country.

1.1 THE PROCESS OF TAKING CONTROL

In the late 1980s, the Acadian Peninsula Economic Development Commission began a broad consultation process with a view to finding solutions to the socio-economic problems that were emerging because of the decline in the fisheries, the main industry in the region. Under the slogan, *Tant d'idées, temps d'agir* ("So Many Ideas, Time to Act"), over 1,000 people contributed to a five-year development plan, thus demonstrating a collective will to take control of the affairs of the region.

In particular, the participants demanded action to bridge what they perceived as the unjustifiable gap between the Acadian Peninsula and other regions in the delivery of adequate health services and an educational system conducive to academic upgrading. The school drop-out rate is over 40% and about 40% of the francophone population of the Acadian Peninsula does not have Grade 9. The economic situation, family circumstances and the lack of political will explain these statistics.[3]

Participants agreed that the healthier the population of the region, the more potentially active the region would be socially, as well as being economically productive and independent.[4]

1.2 FINDINGS

Several proposals that emerged from this consultation revealed the need for the Acadian Peninsula to catch up not only in terms of the basic infrastructure, but also in the area of education, health, community services, communications and the environment. The aspirations of the people were clear. They stressed the fact that to improve the quality of life, the economic development of the Acadian Peninsula must include adequate educational training, vigorous environmental planning and protection, and the implementation of effective communication services to counteract regional isolation.[5]

The will of the people in the Acadian Peninsula to take control of their own development has gradually given way to disillusionment because of the lack of commitment on the part of the provincial government, a partner in the early stages of the process, to establish the necessary mechanisms for change. It was only after 10 years, in the context of a weakened economy and growing social tensions, that the provincial government mandated Ted Gaudet to set up the Acadian Peninsula Economic Development Commission.

Thus, another public consultation process began in October 1998. Commissioner Gaudet tabled his report in March 1999. It contains a series of long-term guidelines aimed at enhancing the economic climate of the Acadian Peninsula, and also a series of recommendations for action designed to rebuild the socio-economic fabric of the region.

In June 1999, a new government was elected in New Brunswick. Follow-up on the Gaudet Report remains uncertain. However, in the late summer of 1999, the government announced the creation of an Action Committee for the Peninsula and the injection of an additional $25 million over five years. There seems to be a political will to revive the region, but the task is enormous. The deterioration of the socio-economic fabric has led to a climate of mistrust and profound cynicism. Both the consensus and the vision of development in the Peninsula that emerged during the Socio-Economic Conference have disappeared. Parochialism is more pronounced than ever and because of petty politics, higher goals are often sacrificed to personal ends.

1.3 STRUCTURAL PROBLEMS

One of the great weaknesses of the Acadian Peninsula from the stand point of economic development is that most sectors of the economy, including fishing, peat harvesting, farming, logging and tourism, operate on a seasonal basis. Over half the workers (53%) in the region have seasonal jobs, including the 26.4% in the fisheries.[6]

Another contributing factor is the lack of regional management. Despite the fact that prior to the Socio-Economic Conference, all the stakeholders requested an administrative

region which the provincial government announced that it would grant, there has been no regionalization of government services in the Acadian Peninsula.

1.4 EMPLOYMENT INSURANCE REFORM

Until 1993, the economic situation in the Acadian Peninsula had not changed substantially except for the effects of the slowdown in the fisheries. People had settled comfortably into a system of dependence, alternating between seasonal employment and unemployment insurance, which guaranteed them a relatively acceptable annual income.

However, a series of reforms to employment insurance, health and education began in 1993. At the same time as the federal government began to completely overhaul the employment insurance system, the Acadian Peninsula lost many stable and well-paid jobs in health care, education, processing plant management and sales. The cities of Bathurst and Miramichi, in particular, benefitted from the transfer of government jobs. This relocation of professionals also led to the elimination of administrative positions in the Peninsula. The collapse of fish stocks, the drop in quotas and the moratorium in the cod fishery also had a negative effect on employment.[7]

The employment insurance reform thus occurred at a time when the Acadian Peninsula was very vulnerable. The effects of this reform on the economy as a whole and on certain categories of workers, including those in the fisheries, have been dramatic.[8]

Employment insurance benefits fell from $158 million in 1993-1994 to $99 million in 1997-1998 – a drop of $59 million in four years. The Acadian Peninsula's dependence on income transfers such as employment insurance is not only due to the importance of the fisheries. It is also due to the fact that there are very few employment opportunities in the region outside that sector.[9]

According to the 1996 census, the unemployment rate in the Acadian Peninsula was 23.5%, nearly double the provincial rate of 12.7%.

1.5 DEMOGRAPHY: DECREASE IN 0- TO 19-YEAR-OLDS

The population of the Acadian Peninsula remained stable between the 1991 and 1996. In 1996, there were 49, 410 inhabitants, which represented only a slight increase from 1991.

POPULATION OF THE ACADIAN PENINSULA (INCLUDING THE PARISH OF ALNWICK)					
Males total*	28,380	**Females total***	28,050	**Both sexes total***	56,430
0 - 4	1,540	0 - 4	1,435	0 - 4	2,975
5 - 9	1,725	5 - 9	1,660	5 - 9	3,375
10 - 14	2,185	10 - 14	1,995	10 - 14	4,180
15	470	15	420	15	890
16	490	16	480	16	970
17	480	17	410	17	890
18	480	18	475	18	935
19	480	19	485	19	945
15 - 19	2,390	15 - 19	2,230	15 - 19	4,620
20 - 24	2,125	20 - 24	2,065	20 - 24	4,190
Source: Statistics Canada, 1996 Census					
*Please note that the totals include the whole population of all age groups, not only the groups mentioned in the table.					

TABLE 1

As Table 1 indicates, there has been a decline in the proportion of children 0 to 9 years of age, compared to those 10 to 19 years of age. In 1996, the population of 0- to 19-year-olds totalled 15,150 persons, a drop of nearly nearly 4% compared to 1991.[10] The rate of change for this same age group fell by 11.6% during the same period, whereas in Canada, it increased by 4%.[11]

This situation is particularly disturbing if one looks back at the post-war years when nearly half the population of Canada was under 20 years of age. Throughout industrialized countries there has been a decrease in the number of children per family over the last 30 years; the situation in the Acadian Peninsula is compounded by the sharp decline in the proportion of 0- to 19-year-olds. The socio-economic reality is partly responsible for this phenomenon.[12] It is imperative that viable solutions be found, so that the Acadian Peninsula does not become merely a bedroom community in 40 or 50 years' time.

1.6 YOUTH: FUTURE RESOURCE FOR THE ACADIAN PENINSULA

The young people described in this report are between 13 and 21 years of age. There are virtually no documents dealing with their situation, their needs, and their vision of the socio-economic development of the Acadian Peninsula. At most, there are a few paragraphs here and there and a few recommendations as to possible solutions relating to their schooling and career reorientation or retraining. We know, for instance, that a large number of young people (about 30%) drop out of school before Grade 12.

How can this phenomenon be explained? In times of economic hardship, people are more concerned with their basic needs (accommodation, food and clothing) than with education. Young people are attracted by the seasonal nature of many of the jobs and by the fact that these jobs are in the primary sector and thus require little education. The possibility of collecting employment insurance benefits, and thus having a year-round income, encourages many young people to leave school. A number of students said they were not learning anything useful in school, were having trouble with the system, and that they had to work. The high unemployment rate among young graduates also tends to encourage young people to quit school.[13]

Many young people, including a number with a relatively high level of schooling, have entered the fishing industry in recent years. Since there is little chance they will be able to make a career for themselves in that sector, the risk of falling into a system of dependence remains very high.[14]

A count of all the workers employed in the fish plants of the Acadian Peninsula last fall revealed that there were 341 young people between 16 and 24 years of age. Of this group, 122 were female and 119 were male; the average age being 20 years. In the population targeted by this study, namely 13- to 21-year-olds, there were 198 ranging in age from 16 to 21, of which 73 were female averaging 19.47 years of age, and 125 males, averaging 19.61 years of age.

These statistics show us that the myth that far more women than men work in fish plants is unfounded.

In February 2000, the Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture announced its intention to take this category of workers out of the industry. Plans call for the creation of a program to enable these young people to be reoriented into another field, depending on their aptitudes. However, this can only be achieved if guidance and professional resources are available to support the young people in the process. A follow-up and evaluation process to measure the success of the program will also be required.

Most of the studies reveal a close link between the socio-economic circumstances of the family and the likelihood of dropping out of school. The lower the income, professional

status and level of education of the parents, the greater the risk that the young person will not complete Grade 12.[15]

How can this vicious circle be broken? Why is it that these stop-gap measures do not seem to be giving the anticipated results? How can we interest or motivate young people in their training and their future? The answer to this question could be the beginning of a real solution. First of all, we must understand the mood of young people. We need to know their opinions and their aspirations. We must overcome the climate of distrust typical of the the region and include young people in the effort to change the mentality. They have to be part of the solution and participate actively in looking for solutions, since they are the ones who can guarantee a future for the region.

1.7 YOUNG PEOPLE'S PLACE IN HEATHY COMMUNITIES

In 1996, a pilot project entitled, Villes et villages en santé ("Healthy Towns and Villages"), was implemented in Lamèque and Saint-Isidore, two communities in the Acadian Peninsula.

This concept originated from the World Health Organization in response to the challenge of *Health for all by the year 2000*, launched at the World Health Assembly in 1977.[16]

The year 1997 saw the beginnings of the Mouvement acadien des communautés en santé du Nouveau-Brunswick ("Movement for Healthy Acadian Communities in New Brunswick"), known as MACS-NB. The concept provides a community leadership tool designed to create conditions for improving the quality of life of people living in a town, village or community. It calls upon local decision makers, stakeholders and the population at large to work together, in partnership, to carry out actions to help improve health and the quality of life.[17]

The overall health of any individual requires favourable physical, psychological, social and economic environments. The 13 determinants of health established by Health Canada in 1996 reflect the basic principles of healthy environments for the overall health of any individual or community.

What is special about the philosophy of the healthy communities concept is that the initiatives, projects and actions must come from the community, based on a need identified by the community.[18]

This concept would certainly be useful when implementing strategies which will be developed with young people in the present project. Commitment, self-reliance, mutual assistance, solidarity, fulfillment of one's potential, and a sense of pride and belonging are all elements required for people wishing to improve their own quality of life or that of

their community. With mechanisms for supporting and reinforcing individual and community capacities, nothing is more motivating for young people than to be able to develop in this type of context.

Numerous municipalities, communities and organizations in the Acadian Peninsula and elsewhere in francophone New Brunswick have joined the Mouvement acadien des communautés en santé du Nouveau-Brunswick since its incorporation in the fall of 1999. Many others will be doing so in the near future. It is an excellent way for young people to participate actively in their own development and that of their community. By making young people responsible for their future and that of the region, by supporting them in taking control and by involving them in any process for the socio-economic recovery of the Acadian Peninsula, the leaders of this "mission" will have a better chance of success.

2. WORKING GROUP

To support the consultant whose services were retained under the memorandum of agreement signed with Health Canada, the Centre de Bénévolat de la Péninsule Acadiennne Inc. designated a Working Group to plan the overall process and to guide the activities associated with each phase of the study. The Working Group was made up of one youth worker from the Acadian Peninsula Youth Futures project, the Coordinator of the Mouvement acadien des communautés en santé du Nouveau-Brunswick, and the Executive Director of the Centre de Bénévolat de la Péninsule Acadienne Inc.

Throughout the process, the Working Group respected the commitment of the Centre de Bénévolat de la Péninsule Acadienne Inc. to the members of the Youth Advisory Team who were invited to ratify each tool developed to carry out the study.

3. YOUTH PARTICIPATION

From the outset, the Centre de Bénévolat de la Péninsule Acadienne Inc. expressed the desire to request the active participation of young people in the Acadian Peninsula in the research. A Youth Advisory Team was thus formed. It was agreed that this team would include students at the secondary and post-secondary levels. A grid establishing criteria for selecting the young people was drawn up and distributed to the various student communities.

The Youth Advisory Team was directly associated with the approval of each working tool used in the study. The input of the Youth Advisory Team ensured that the perspective of young people was incorporated in all phases, including the design of the questionnaire, the list of questions used for the discussion groups, the approval of the documents leading to the final report, and the formulation of the recommendations for improving the chances of keeping young people in the Acadian Peninsula.

To encourage youth participation, the Centre de Bénévolat de la Péninsule Acadienne Inc. also wanted to use the services of two young observers – a male student from the community college and a female student from the Université de Moncton. After meeting the selection criteria, the observers were asked to monitor each phase of the study, to participate in the meetings of Youth Advisory Team with the Working Group, and to write an observation report.

4. SUMMARY OF GROUP DISCUSSIONS

4.1 EXODUS OF YOUNG PEOPLE FROM THE ACADIAN PENINSULA AS A RESULT OF THE FISHERIES CRISIS AND POVERTY

The participants in the discussion groups were of the view that the exodus of young people from the Acadian Peninsula is not only related to poverty and the fisheries crisis, but also to the lack of jobs and the low wages offered for the few jobs that do exist.

The lack of choices for courses in post-secondary training forces young people to leave the region to obtain a diploma. In addition, the availability of skilled, well-paid jobs in the large centres when students complete their training also contributes to the exodus.

4.2 CONCERNS DUE TO THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC SITUATION IN THE ACADIAN PENINSULA

Young people are aware of the socio-economic situation in the Acadian Peninsula. Their main concerns in this regard focus on seasonal work, the lack of processing of natural resources, the small population, the low level of schooling, the lack of professional training and the lack of investment in new initiatives to create permanent jobs.

They also stated that people tend to purchase goods outside the region because of the lack of selection; this has a detrimental effect on the local economy, since the money circulates outside the Acadian Peninsula.

4.3 CONCERNS OF YOUNG PEOPLE WITH REGARD TO THE FISHERIES CRISIS

Some young people perceive the fisheries crisis as the result of the excessive concentration of wealth generated by this industry in the hands of a small, privileged group. Others are of the opinion that because of their lack of education, fishermen who have become rich have not reinvested their money in the region to stimulate the economy.

Another group of young people think that the fisheries crisis is affecting all economic activity in the region. The decline of the fisheries has produced a chain reaction: fewer jobs, less spending power, thus less revenue for the goods and services businesses that, in turn, have trouble remaining profitable. Young people also pointed out that the adaptation of fisheries workers to other sectors is difficult: given the seasonal nature of most of these sectors and the lack of economic diversification, job opportunities are

scarce. Young people are concerned about the vulnerability of the resource and about the future of the industry in the event of a total depletion of the fish stocks.

4.4 OTHER FACTORS AFFECTING THE ECONOMIC SITUATION

All the participants in the study noted the dependency on social programs that affects the socio-economic situation in the Acadian Peninsula. It was agreed that people are not motivated to work because wages are low. Over the years, they have gotten into the habit of counting on employment insurance or income assistance to make up the shortfall. Some people have no other choice, but the young people felt that many people abuse the system and take advantage of it.

One group of young people stated that the changes to the eligibility criteria of the program could have positive repercussions because they would force people to be more creative and to look for concrete solutions without waiting for solutions to come from outside.

The low level of schooling and the lack of training also affect the region's socio-economic situation, but the young people saw this as an opportunity to set up centres to train people according to the job requirements of the region.

The absence of major industries generating permanent jobs is another factor that influences the situation. This explains why young people take a favourable view of the establishment of a new textile plant in the centre of the Acadian Peninsula.

Young people noted the lack of innovation in the creation of businesses. According to their observations, there is a tendency to compete and undercut local businesses. Some mentioned the reluctance of many people to go into business, because they have no help and have to assume all the risks. The lack of future prospects for young people – one of the main reasons they leave the region – also has an effect on the aging of the population. Young people believe that an increased number of retired people could have positive impacts on the creation of jobs providing the services they will need, particularly in the area of health care.

4.5 EVALUATION OF THE INFORMATION, RESOURCES AND OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE ACADIAN PENINSULA

The opinions of participants were divided as to the amount of resources and information available to young people. Some felt there was an adequate amount but that they were not exploited enough. They want to see an improvement in the quality. Guidance

services available in educational institutions were often criticized. According to the participants in the study, young people do not always receive relevant information about educational institutions, labour market trends and career opportunities. They also added that the advice they were given concerning career choices was not always appropriate.

Others felt the resources and information were inadequate. They suggested that a communication tool be created to inform young people about all the resources, opportunities and activities available in the Peninsula. The majority of the young people stressed the lack of opportunities.

4.6 EVALUATION OF THE QUALITY OF LIFE AND THE VITALITY OF THE COMMUNITY

The results of the evaluation of the quality of life and the vitality of the community were very similar in all the discussion groups. The majority of the young people said they appreciate nature, the open spaces, the safety and peacefulness of the region, greater freedom than in the large cities, the fact that there are no natural disasters or wars, and the fact they can choose their own friends.

However, most deplored the lack of activities for young people. They mentioned the existence of a few clubs for the under-19-year-olds and the Maisons des jeunes, but said they did not frequent them very much. The lack of jobs for young people was cited as a major factor that had a negative effect on their quality of life.

Depending on whether one is rich or poor, financial resources had a positive or negative effect on the quality of life of young people. According to many of the participants, there is a wide gap between the rich and the poor.

4.7 LIVING IN A RURAL COMMUNITY WHEN ONE IS YOUNG AND ACADIAN

According to the majority of the participants, being young, Acadian and living in an isolated rural area generates many prejudices. Young people feel misunderstood and discriminated against. They said they are not respected and that they are the victims of unjustified prejudice and rejection on the part of their community. They attributed this to the fact that everyone knows everyone else and that gossip often distorts the importance of an incident or event. People who become the target of gossip find it very difficult, if not impossible, to redeem themselves in the eyes of their community. As a result, many suffer a loss of self-esteem. The difficulty in getting a job is another factor that confronts young people in the Acadian Peninsula. According to the participants, personal contacts

or family connections with influential people are necessary in order to have a chance of obtaining a job.

The distinction between social classes is also important for young people, especially in high schools. Dress seems to be the key to distinguishing the more disadvantaged from those who are more well-off. As a result, "clans" or "gangs" are often formed. However, young people said that social classes tend to fade at the college and university level. There seems to be more respect between groups and people feel more at the same level. One group said that it was often "really neat" to get to know everyone belonging to the Acadian community. People are proud of their Acadian origins and are prepared to defend them.

4.8 FUTURE PROSPECTS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE ACADIAN PENINSULA

The majority of the participants stated that they saw little future in the Acadian Peninsula. They mentioned several reasons: the lack of skilled, well-paid jobs; the lack of post-secondary institutions; the lack of accessibility to post-secondary education; better job opportunities in the large centres when they graduate; student debts that force them to find work elsewhere; and the limited population that hinders new initiatives in specialized fields.

On the other hand, some participants felt they had a future in the Acadian Peninsula because of the the new textile plant that will need qualified workers. One participant was thinking of the possibility of creating his own business, while others said they could make a living in the region provided they were creative and obtained government assistance to develop new business ideas. Offers of skilled employment in certain fields may encourage some young people to stay in the Acadian Peninsula.

4.9 YOUNG PEOPLE'S NEEDS FOR SERVICES AND RESOURCES

To improve their quality of life in terms of education, work and wellness, young people stated that there were many needs.

Education:

- more training places adapted to their personal needs
- greater choice of courses
- easier access to student loans
- more equitable distribution of scholarships
- better access to education
- a program validating the importance of education.

Work:

- more better-paid jobs
- more industries
- more summer jobs for young people.

Wellness:

- more meeting places for young people in the community
- expansion of services in sectors such as tourism
- change the image of the Acadian Peninsula, which is too negative
- end people's dependence on social programs.

4.10 IDEAS AND SOLUTIONS

In order to achieve change, the young people made the following suggestions:

- Attract investors with new development ideas for the region.
- Offer the necessary training to people who need to upgrade their qualifications.
- Create more places in the community colleges to meet training needs; the creation of a community college in the region was viewed favourably.
- Increase the number of full baccalaureate degrees offered at the Université de Moncton, Shippagan Campus.
- Create a special post-secondary education assistance fund to help young people who lack financial resources.
- Provide support for people who depend on social programs in order to help them break out of the cycle and to restore their self-esteem.
- Create a campaign to promote the Acadian Peninsula.
- Create an organization for young people so they can work together to find solutions to the region's problems.

4.11 ROLE OF YOUNG PEOPLE

Young people felt that they have to play a role in seeking solutions because they represent the future.

- They said they have a role to play in changing the mentality of the community which is often narrow, closed and discriminating. They can be more open-minded and convey a perspective that is more attuned to the value of young people and their rightful place.

- The role of young people could become more important if the education system instilled in them values relating to development of the Acadian Peninsula.
- Young people expressed the importance of getting involved in groups and organized activities, even if it is not always easy to change things.
- They also said they had to convince other young people to become involved, especially in school activities.
- Young people felt that they should be consulted on matters that concern them.
- They said young people must pursue their education instead of dropping out of school.
- They must be more disciplined.
- They must stand together.
- They must stop being passive and waiting for others to do things or make decisions for them.

4.12 GENERAL COMMENTS ON WHAT YOUNG PEOPLE EXPERIENCE IN THE ACADIAN PENINSULA

Self-esteem was one of the dominant feelings that preoccupied young people in the Acadian Peninsula. Many young people indicated that they find the gap between high and low self-esteem just as great as the gap between rich and poor. The lack of help can lead to very difficult situations, including dispair.

This observation raised the "taboo" subject of suicide. Young people said they very rarely dealt with this question. They said they talk about it when it occurs, although that did not change anything. Suicide is a phenomenon that frightens people, so they prefer not to think or talk about it, because they do not understand the reason for such tragedies. They also said that the subject is not discussed in classes or in groups. Since they cannot talk about suicidal tendencies among themselves, they suggested that people who have thought about or attempted suicide should talk about how they managed to pull through, in order to sensitize young people and to help them discuss the issue.

Participants in the study also mentioned the lack of encouragement and direction given by the schools to young people who are gifted for manual work.

Student debts and uncertainty about job opportunities were also mentioned.

Given the socio-economic situation in the Acadian Peninsula, they want to be better informed on the subject and find out how to go about doing something.

Finally, many participants were of the view that discussion groups like the ones for the present study should have some follow-up and perhaps become a means for young people to express their ideas freely.

5. ANALYSIS OF THE QUESTIONNAIRE FOR 13- TO 21-YEAR-OLDS OF THE ACADIAN PENINSULA

(Note: The percentages in this analysis are based on the number of respondents for each question.)

5.1 AGE, SEX AND LEVEL OF SCHOOLING

Fifty-two young people (28 boys and 24 girls) in Grades 9 to 12, and at the community college and university level responded to the questionnaire. The average age of respondents was 17 years; 61.5% had at least Grade 12, while 38.5% were engaged in post-secondary study (9 at the community college level and 11 at the university level).

The post-secondary respondents were working toward diplomas in various fields requiring studies ranging from the community college level to the doctoral level.

The respondents came from various locations in the Acadian Peninsula; there was quite good balance, except for Shippagan, where the number was higher. This is due to the fact that both the community college and the university campus are located in Shippagan.

5.2 PLACE OF RESIDENCE

Of all the respondents, 73.3% stated that they live with their parents, 11.5% live in apartments and 9.6% with guardians, foster families or grandparents. The high percentage of young people living with their parents is explained by the fact that the majority of respondents were attending secondary school. Several factors explain the small number of young people at post-secondary level who live in apartments: the family residence is near the community college or the university campus; there is transportation available in the morning and evening; they do not have the financial resources to live in an apartment; or they have chosen to live at home. Possible reasons why some live in apartments include availability of financial resources, lack of daily transportation or personal choice.

5.3 ORIGIN AND LANGUAGE

Seventy-eight per cent of respondents were born in the Acadian Peninsula, while 22% were born elsewhere, four of them outside New Brunswick.

French is the mother tongue of 98.1%, while 1.9% have English as their first language. All respondents said they speak French at home, at school, at work, with their friends and in their leisure activities; 86.5% said they speak French everywhere, while 13.5% do not. A very small number (5.8%) sometimes speak a language other than French with friends or in their leisure activities.

Of the respondents, 90.4% said they were proud of their Acadian origins while 9.6% said they were not sure. The reasons are varied, the most frequently mentioned were pride in their language, culture and roots, the sense of belonging, the concept of a distinct people and the fact that they were survivors. Those who were not sure have divided feelings about the image projected of Acadians.

5.4 FAMILY AND PERSONAL SITUATION

With regard to their family and personal situation, 96.2% of the respondents indicated they were single; 3.8% live common law; none had children; 63.5% stated that their parents were married; 19.2% stated that their parents were separated or divorced; 9.6% indicated that their parents were living common law; 7.7% said they were from single-parent families.

5.5 FAMILY AND PERSONAL INCOME

Of the 39 young people who said they relied on their parents for income, 21 depended on them exclusively; 11 depended on their parents and on part-time work; two depended on their parents and on scholarships or student loans; four depended on their parents, on part-time work and on scholarships or student loans; and one depended on parents and on income assistance. Scholarships or student loans were the main source of income for three young people; part-time work was the main source for three others, as was a combination of part-time work and scholarships or student loans; two respondents said they depended on income assistance; another stated that employment insurance was his main source of income; and one young person did not answer the question.

We can therefore say that 40.4% of respondents depend exclusively on their parents as a source of income; 34.6% depend on both their parents and on other sources; 25% have a main source of income other than their parents and family.

With regard to personal income, 80% of the young people who answered this question earned less than $5,000; 17.8% earned between $5,000 and $9,999; while one respondent's personal income exceeded $10,000.

For 71.2% of the respondents, full-time employment was the main source of family income; for 5.8%, seasonal, part-time work or other sources; 5.8% of the families were unemployed; and 3.8% were receiving income assistance.

These responses do not reflect the reality of the region as far as full-time employment is concerned, since the 1991 census indicated that only 18% of the population of the Acadian Peninsula had a full-time job all year round.

The family income of 38.8% of the participants exceeded $30,000; that of 10.2% was between $20,000 and $29,999; and 4.1% of the families earned less than $20,000. However, 46.9% of the participants said they do not know what the annual income of their family was.

5.6 WORKING CONDITIONS

Seventy-eight per cent of the respondents have held, or were holding, a seasonal, part-time or full-time job; 92% of the jobs were located in the Acadian Peninsula, while 8% were outside. The types of job that respondents have done, or were doing, were very varied: the majority (73.2%) stated they were satisfied with the working conditions, while 12.2% were not; 14.6% stated they were uncertain.

Despite the high level of satisfaction expressed, the fact remains that 20.8% of respondents were dissatisfied or unsure. The reasons given were varied: low wages, too much overtime, stress, lack of breaks, sexism, etc.

5.7 INTEREST IN WORK

Of the 52 respondents, 37 (71.2%) were without work. The reasons were as follows: 59.5% were students, 16.2% said they were too young, 13.5% were unable to find work, 5.4% chose not to work, 2.7% because of lack of experience and 2.7% because of plant closures.

It should be noted that 13.5% of the respondents said they did not work because they could not find a job.

Nineteen young people wanted to find a job in order to have their own money, to pay for their education and their personal needs, or because they had no money left. Eleven respondents did not wish to work because their studies come first and they have a very full personal life. Fifteen stated they were looking for part-time and six for full-time work. The fields of interest were varied: computer science, administration, tourism,

municipal affairs, mechanics, food service and any other field which would offer worthwhile opportunities.

5.8 INTEREST IN STUDIES

Of the 52 respondents, 92.3% said they were interested in continuing their studies, while 7.7% were not sure. The main reasons given by the former were to have a job and to succeed in life. Those who were not sure were concerned about the cost of education.

It is interesting to note that no one replied that they were not interested in continuing their studies.

Twenty-five per cent of the respondents were interested in obtaining a master's degree or a doctorate, 23.1% a bachelor's degree, 42.3% a college diploma, 3.85% a trade school diploma, and 3.85% Grade12 only (1.9% did not answer the question).

It is interesting to note that a quarter of the respondents were aiming for a post-graduate degree while only a small number (3.85%) wished to stop after Grade12.

Computer science was the field that aroused the most interest, followed by business administration, medicine and psychology. However, no respondent demonstrated any interest in the fisheries, which is still the main industry in the Acadian Peninsula. This can be attributed to the low value set on the fisheries sector by the community, hence the comment, "There's no future in the fisheries."

5.9 LEISURE ACTIVITIES

All respondents stated that they had more than one leisure activity. Sports came in first place for 46.2% of the respondents, while reading was second (23.1%). Computers and video games followed in third place (21.2%). The fact that the computer did not come in first place among the preferred leisure activities was explained by the Youth Advisory Team by the fact that the computer is a communication tool that is part of their daily lives, just like the telephone, and most do not consider that using it is a leisure activity.

Of the respondents, 53.8% stated they took part regularly in some physical activity, 38.5% did so occasionally, and 7.7% rarely. Also, 38.5% were involved in groups or committees while 61.5% were not.

5.10 SOCIAL NETWORK

Of those who participated in the questionnaire, 90.4% said they had many friends, while 9.6% said they had some. No respondent was without friends: 98.1% had someone in which to confide, while 1.9% said they had no one.

Family and friends were the people the respondents trusted; professionals and community resources were rarely consulted (5.7%).

5.11 LIFESTYLES

Of the respondents, 63.5% felt they ate properly, 17.3% said they did not, and 19.2% were not sure. The majority (63.5%) said they ate three meals a day. No one said they ate less than two meals; 13.5% said they had two meals a day; while 17.3% had more than three meals; and 5.7% did not answer the question.

Of the 96.2% who answered the question on smoking, 24% said they smoked and 76% said they did not smoke. The number of cigarettes smoked per day ranged from two to 15, except for one respondent who smoked a pack a day.

The large number of non-smokers among respondents reflects the reality of the community, according to the Youth Advisory Team. The team members felt that many young people start smoking when they enter the labour market, while others start very young, at the age of 10 or 11, and stop when they reach secondary school.

The question on alcohol consumption was answered by 96.2% of respondents. Eighty per cent of those who answered said that they drink, while 10% said they do not; 70% drink occasionally, 10% socially and 2% regularly.

Regarding drug use, 44.2% said they used or have used drugs, as opposed to 53.8% who said they did not use and have not used drugs. Only one person refused to answer. The drugs most often mentioned by respondents were marijuana, hashish and pot.

Of the respondents who said they used drugs, 52.2% did so occasionally, 26.1% socially and 4.2% regularly; 17.4% did not indicate the frequency.

According to the members of the Youth Advisory Team, the responses obtained regarding alcohol and drug use reflect the reality of the community. They were not surprised by the results.

Regarding the use of medication, 25% said they take medication, 73.1% do not and 1.9% declined to answer. Of those who take medication, 61.5% do so regularly and 38.5% do so occasionally.

Also, 13.5% of the respondents suffer from a disease or a handicap while 86.5% do not; 92.2% of participants have been to a doctor or received medical treatment at least once, versus 7.8% who have not; 1.2% did not answer the question.

As for sexual relations, 60.8% have already had sexual relations, while 31.4% have not; 7.8% did not answer. Of those who have had sexual relations, 41.9% said they have had only one partner; 45.2% between two and five; and 12.9% have had more than five. Seventy-seven per cent said they practiced safe sex; 12.9% did so occasionally; and 9.7% state they did not do so. Of the 24 respondents who said they practiced safe sex, 18 used condoms.

5.12 INTEREST IN REMAINING IN THE ACADIAN PENINSULA

Of all the respondents, 61.5% said they liked living in the Acadian Peninsula, while 17.3% said they did not and 21.2% were not sure.

The main reasons they like the region are the peacefulness of the area (75%), the proximity to the sea and their network of friends (65.4%), the natural beauty and the open spaces (63.5%), and family ties (57.7%).

Those who do not like the Acadian Peninsula or were not sure whether they liked it gave the following reasons: lack of jobs (44.29%), lack of opportunities (34.6%), distance from the big cities (32.7%), no places for young people to meet, and lack of activities and action (30.8%).

Fifty-one of the 52 respondents (98.1%) said they know young people who have left the Acadian Peninsula. The reasons most frequently mentioned were to get a job on the outside (78.8%), to continue their education (75%), and to look for work (71.2%).

5.13 CONCERNS ABOUT THE LIVING ENVIRONMENT

Thirty-five of the 52 respondents (67.3%) said they have discussed the social and economic situation of the Acadian Peninsula with someone, while 17 (32.7%) have never done so. The question was most often raised with parents and in the family. The topic was also discussed with friends and at school, but rarely in the community. Of those who have discussed the situation, 60% say they have done so occasionally and 28.6% do so regularly; 11.4% did not reply.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

Given the results of the survey and the discussion groups with young people 13 to 21 years old in the Acadian Peninsula, the Working Group and Youth Advisory Team believe it appropriate to make a number of recommendations. The following recommendations offer guidelines for improving not only the quality of life of young people living in the Acadian Peninsula, but the quality of life of all residents in the region.

6.1 We recommend that a day of reflection and consultation on the socio-economic situation of the region be included every year in the educational program of Grades 7 to 12 in all schools in the Acadian Peninsula.

The aim of this recommendation is:

- to enable young people to better understand the socio-economic situation in the Acadian Peninsula;
- to enable young people to express their opinions on the topic;
- to inform the broader community about the position of young people.

6.2 We recommend that an organization be created to focus on young people in the Acadian Peninsula and their training. Using the healthy communities approach, this would be done by setting up young people's groups in various communities throughout the region.

The aim of this recommendation is to motivate young people to work together to seek solutions to the challenges related to the socio-economic situation in the Acadian Peninsula which affect their quality of life.

6.3 We recommend the creation of a strategy aimed at increasing opportunities for the development and growth of young people in the economic, social, educational and cultural sectors.

The aim of this recommendation is to restore the confidence of young people in the opportunities in the Acadian Peninsula in order to encourage them to remain in the region.

6.4 We recommend the implementation of a campaign to promote the Acadian Peninsula inside and outside the region.

The aim of this recommendation is:

- to enhance the image of the Acadian Peninsula as a quality lifestyle environment for young people;
- to counter the negative aspects of the Acadian Peninsula – a weak economy, limited job opportunities, a reputation of crime and a dependency on social programs, etc.

6.5 We recommend the implementation of full undergraduate post-secondary programs.

The aim of this recommendation is to offer young people opportunities to finish their training in the Acadian Peninsula and thus stem the tide of students who leave to pursue their education.

HEALTH -- FOUR SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING EDUCATION

6.6 We recommend that a strategy be integrated into planning for the Acadian Peninsula to familiarize young people with hospitality, monitoring and support services for an aging population.

The aim of this recommendation is:

- to develop expertise among local youth who would provide hospitality, monitoring and support services for an aging population in the Acadian Peninsula;
- to encourage retired people from the Peninsula to return to the region;
- to promote the Acadian Peninsula as a retirement destination offering quality services and a safe environment.

6.7 We recommend a re-evaluation of the content and delivery mechanisms for sex education programs so that they are more effective and more adapted to the needs of young people.

The aim of this recommendation is to ensure that young people are well informed and fully understand the necessity of using adequate protection when having sexual relations.

6.8 We recommend that resources be made available in the field in order to promote the national anti-smoking strategy.

The aim of this recommendation is to enable young people to better understand the harmful effects of smoking on their health and their environment so that they assume more responsibility for healthy lifestyles.

6.9 We recommend that a campaign be launched to sensitize young people so that they assume responsibility for the harmful effects of alcohol and drug use.

The aim of this recommendation is to sensitize young people so that they assume responsibility for the consequences of their choices.

GENERAL RECOMMENDATION BASED ON THE ANALYSIS OF THE QUESTIONNAIRE AND ON THE SUMMARY OF THE DISCUSSIONS

6.10 We recommend the implementation of incentives aimed at encouraging young people to remain and to grow in the Acadian Peninsula.

The aim of this recommendation is to counter the exodus of young people, to support them in their desire to remain in the Acadian Peninsula, and/or to encourage them to return to the region.

7. OBSERVERS' REPORTS

7.1 REPORT BY PATRICK TURNER

7.1.1 Integration of the Youth Advisory Team

The group of young people brought together for the documentary and community study on the repercussions of poverty and the fisheries crisis on the health of the young people of the Acadian Peninsula was made up of dynamic francophone students from the region.

Léo-Paul Pinet made every possible effort to ensure that the young people felt at ease in a professional setting. The Youth Advisory Team was informed of all stages in the study process. The decisions made in their absence were clearly explained during the meetings.

These young people were called to several meetings dealing with the different facets of the study being done by the Centre de Bénévolat de la Péninsule Acadienne Inc. During these meetings, the members of the Youth Advisory Team were encouraged to give their opinions on a number of subjects relating to the study. Mr. Pinet's approach offered them a partnership situation and they were listened to with respect.

The greatest contribution of the young people related to the approach and elements used during the meetings in the schools with the students of the different areas of the Acadian Peninsula. The questionnaire and the questions brought to the discussion groups were revised by the Youth Advisory Team during a meeting in Shippagan.

Most of the members of the Youth Advisory Team also presented the study to the participants in their schools.

Summary
Léo-Paul Pinet, Director of the Centre de Bénévolat de la Péninsule Acadienne Inc., not only included the Youth Advisory Team in all decisions, but also respected the decisions and the opinions of members regarding the approach and tools used during the discussions. A team spirit was present and all members were personally involved in the discussions relating to the study.

7.1.2 Process

Questionnaire
The document used to gather the data was hotly debated during one of the meetings of the Youth Advisory Team. It was the result of numerous changes. The questions presented were realistic and had no hidden aspects.

After the presentation of the questionnaire to the public, the young people in the schools indicated to us that some questions were ambiguous.

The vast majority of the people chosen to participate in the discussion groups filled out the entire questionnaire. The questions on drugs and sexuality yielded interesting results.

The young people were fully informed by Ghislaine Foulem regarding the utilization of the data from the questionnaire, and they completed it seriously and honestly.

Discussion Groups

After the first meeting, which was held in Caraquet, the group facilitation method was altered because the young people did not feel sufficiently free to express themselves and had the impression of being restricted in the discussion. The facilitator asked them questions and expected answers relating only to the topic of discussion. We realized that a freer format would be more flexible. Many more young people took part in the discussion at Louis-Mailloux High School in Caraquet than in all the other groups. The meeting was held in an auditorium; groups were formed among the young people present. The discussion went very well and some interesting points were noted.

At W.-A.-Losier High School in Tracadie, we used the new approach and the young people responded very well to it. The group was smaller than in Caraquet, and so the facilitator could direct the discussion more effectively. Participants sat at a round table where they were grouped together; this made for better dialogue.

Marie-Esther High School in Shippagan offered us quite a different scenario. The administration requested signed permission from the parents/guardians of the pupils participating in the group, which resulted in a decreased number of participants. The small group of pupils nevertheless dealt with all the points necessary for the study.

The New Brunswick Community College, Shippagan Campus, presented two groups of students from different fields: business technology and information technology. The participants followed the guidelines given by the facilitator to express interesting opinions about the Acadian Peninsula. The students in this group were older, and so the subjects were discussed in greater depth.

Unfortunately, I could not attend the meeting with the students of the Université de Moncton, Shippagan Campus, because of my obligations as a student.

I would add that the doughnuts and juice offered during the meetings were very much appreciated by the members of the discussion groups.

Summary
The fact that the questionnaire used had been revised by people of the same age group as the students in the region made the document easy to complete. The discussion groups were a total success all down the line!

7.1.3 Feedback

The exercise undertaken by the Centre de Bénévolat de la Péninsule Acadienne Inc. offered a refreshing approach to young people. The visits to the high schools and post-secondary institutions of the Acadian Peninsula demonstrated that the young people of the region have a great need to express their fears, opinions and ideas for improving the situation in the Peninsula. From the observer's standpoint, the exercise was an unqualified success in every respect.

Discussion groups
The discussion groups offered them a forum in which their opinions counted. The young people expressed themselves freely during the discussions, and the facilitation format used in the groups yielded positive results.

The school system stood in the way of the effort being undertaken. Most of the school administrations were reluctant to let the students leave during class time to participate in the discussions.

The discussion-group approach was favourable to the development of the documents for the study. The young people did a very good job of meeting the organizers' expectations.

Youth Advisory Team
The idea of drawing on the young people to develop a strategy for approaching students with serious discussion subjects is merely logical. Because of the respect and trust that Léo-Paul Pinet demonstrated for the young people, the members of the Youth Advisory Team felt appreciated during all phases of preparation of the study.

7.1.4 Overall assessment

This study was a success, and a necessity for the development of the Acadian Peninsula.

- The approach to the young people was frank.
- The duration of the study should have been longer.
- All the goals for this portion of the process undertaken by the Centre de Bénévolat de la Péninsule Acadienne Inc. seem to have been attained.
- If this study is used as a guide in other regions requiring data concerning their youth, the process should be followed to the letter in order to carry the exercise through successfully.

7.1.5 Observations concerning the discussion groups

Departure of young people due to the fisheries crisis
Young people are leaving the Acadian Peninsula for several reasons. They wish to continue their education, look for employment and discover new experiences. The fisheries crisis is not a main factor; it affects the economic life of all citizens.

The socio-economic situation
The fisheries crisis affects the economy by reducing the purchasing power of the citizens of the Acadian Peninsula. Because it reduces the number of clients with money, local businesses suffer greatly.

Another factor is the centralization of power in communities. Certain clans have formed within town halls and committees. The young people feel rejected and give up on their community.

The parochial spirit present in the communities of the Acadian Peninsula has prevented the development of certain industries and large-scale economic projects.

Quality of life
The quality of life offered in the Acadian Peninsula is superior to that which exists in the large cities. People feel safer and there is free of choice of activities everywhere.

The future in the Acadian Peninsula
Young people's opportunities to build a future for themselves in the Acadian Peninsula are limited not by their qualifications, but by their political contacts.

Some young people with specialized qualifications have to look beyond the region for companies which can employ them.

Solutions
- Listen to young people with sincerity.
- Take all the communities and towns of the Peninsula and turn them into a one city, like Miramichi. By combining their voices, the people of the Peninsula will acquire significant political weight.
- Keep an eye on the committees that manage the towns and businesses: check whether senior executives are managing according to the needs of the communities rather than their personal needs.

7.2 REPORT BY JENNIFER SMITH

7.2.1 Young people in the Acadian Peninsula

For many years, the Acadian Peninsula has been experiencing an exodus of its young minds. This situation, the reality of which is beyond discussion, has long since assumed excessive proportions and the time has come to put a stop to it. Despite all the studies done on the Acadian Peninsula, none has focused on the position of young people in Acadia. The young people of today represent the future; so why this lack of interest in us, the young?

Just recently, a study was set up to discover why young people are leaving our region. The government seems to be saying that poverty and the fisheries crisis are the main reasons for the exodus, but there is no research to support this. That is why this project was born: in order to find out the truth.

The main goal of the project was to listen to young people, through discussion groups directed by a facilitator. The main tool for these discussions was a survey that was prepared by the Working Group; this survey had to be revised and accepted by a group of young people, of which I was a part.

The first mission of the project was to make room for young people, giving them an opportunity to express themselves freely on various subjects that concern them, in order to understand why most young people leave the region.

This part of the project was respected in an admirable way, even though one sometimes felt that some of the organizers disapproved of the responses, but these subtle and unconscious reactions in no way modified the opinions of the young people.

The special attention they paid to young people when developing the survey was tangible proof that the organizers have a real interest in the region and are aware of the potential lying dormant in our community.

7.2.2 Process

One of the main steps in the project was to create a group of young people from different parts of the Peninsula to contribute actively to the project action plan (subjects, discussion procedures, methods for bringing the discussion around to the desired subjects, etc.). Then these questions were presented to groups of different ages from different communities.

The main objective of the project was to understand why young people leave the region. The responses that emerged from these meetings were not surprising – quite the contrary.

On the other hand, the greatest surprise was the lack of knowledge of, or interest in, the fisheries crisis.

The groups were unanimous in saying that the primary reasons for the exodus of young people were the lack of well-paid jobs, the poor selection of post-secondary training and the lack of interesting activities.

The fisheries crisis, to my great surprise, had to be inserted into the discussion, and the reaction to this problem was weak. Participants had an opinion, but the problem did not concern them.

These exercises made me realize that the young people of the Acadian Peninsula experience the same situations as young people elsewhere: the division into social classes, poor self-esteem, drugs, etc.

The interaction among groups of young people was very animated and very enriching at most of the meetings. The facilitator had to be able to move the discussion from one subject to another, in order to cover all the subjects pertinent to the study.

Unfortunately, the sample of young people who participated in the project was small. So I believe there is a good deal of information that does not appear in the results.

Time was the main enemy of the project: in order to identify the real problems of the young people of the Acadian Peninsula, it is crucial to continue this preliminary work and to go into the subject of our study much more thoroughly.

The overall approach was appropriate and interesting; it demonstrated that it is not only the fisheries crisis that is detrimental to our economic situation, but also the lack of government support. Fishermen are not the only people in the region.

Young people today have little interest in government because they have the feeling that whatever they say or do, nothing will happen. In my opinion, it makes no difference which political party is in power. We are given a project to keep us quiet and then we are forgotten.

It is essential to act on this project and create an organization to deal mainly with the young people of the Acadian Peninsula and give them training to develop a spirit of belonging and discover the unused resources lying dormant within us.

The study also demonstrated that young people are not very well informed about what is going on in the Acadian Peninsula. It is essential to focus on our socio-economic situation in the schools in order to open these young people's hearts to the situation and

give them the desire and the opportunity to contribute to the rebuilding of the region's economy.

CONCLUSION

Three general findings emerge from the study. First, young people are torn between a feeling of belonging – with the attendant desire to remain in the Acadian Peninsula – and a desire to leave, because the region does not offer them the necessary tools for development and growth.

Second, it also emerges that the young people who participated in the exercise do not seem to see the connection between the crisis in the fisheries sector, the poverty of the region and their own health.

Third, the results and the analysis of the questionnaire show a certain ignorance, a certain disinterest – indeed even unawareness – of the consequences of drug and alcohol usage and unsafe sex.

The major conclusion we draw from these findings can be summarized as follows: **There is a need to provide social and economic direction for young people in the field – a coordinated approach to include both aspects. The consultation with young people demonstrates the urgent need of ensuring that services and programs in these areas are available and accessible to the greatest possible number of young people.**

We leave the final word to Jennifer Smith, the university student who acted as an observer in the project:

> *Young people today have little interest in government because they have the feeling that whatever they say or do, nothing will happen. In my opinion, it makes no difference which political party is in power. We are given a project to keep us quiet and then we are forgotten.*
>
> *It is essential to act on this project and create an organization to deal mainly with the young people of the Acadian Peninsula and give them training to develop a spirit of belonging and discover the unused resources lying dormant within us.*
>
> *The study also demonstrated that young people are not very well informed about what is going on in the Acadian Peninsula. It is essential to focus on our socio-economic situation in the schools in order to open these young people's hearts to the situation and give them the desire and the opportunity to contribute to the rebuilding of the region's economy.*

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APPENDIX A

PRESENTATION OF THE ORGANIZATION (CENTRE DE BÉNÉVOLAT DE LA PÉNINSULE ACADIENNE INC.)

The Centre de Bénévolat de la Péninsule Acadienne Inc. is a non-profit organization, incorporated in 1981, which works in the community sector. Its action translates into involvement in several service sectors. Its mission is to work to promote and facilitate volunteer action, to analyze community needs in its territory and to further the development of resources to meet these needs.

Its territory includes the localities in the four electoral ridings of Caraquet, Tracadie-Sheila, Shippagan-les-Îles and Centre-Péninsule. A 12-member board of directors is selected on the basis of equitable representation of the four ridings.

The Centre de Bénévolat de la Péninsule Acadienne Inc. is associated with various government and community agencies in the coordination of programs and services. The clientele affected by all these programs and services includes children, adolescents, young people, adults, seniors, persons at risk and persons living with a handicap, even palliative-care patients. The Centre de Bénévolat de la Péninsule Acadienne Inc. is an organization that has achieved high credibility in the eyes of the Peninsula community and its partners.

Context of the project

"The Acadian Peninsula community must put everything in its power to retain its youth, in order to avoid non-renewal of the resident population."[1]

For many years, the Centre de Bénévolat de la Péninsule Acadienne Inc. has been concerned about the situation of the young people in its territory, by the effect of the socio-economic crisis being experienced by the community, and by the impact of this crisis on their health.

In order to support young people faced with this situation, the Centre de Bénévolat de la Péninsule Acadienne Inc. instituted the streetworker concept in its territory in 1988. With the same concern to lend support to young people and the community, it has invested in understanding and development of the Healthy Communities concept. The Centre de Bénévolat de la Péninsule Acadienne Inc. has joined various partners in the community in concrete actions aimed at the delivery of services to young people.

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[1] Ted Gaudet, *Commission sur le développement économique de la Péninsule acadienne : Directions stratégiques*, 1999.

In the context of the crisis in the fisheries sector in the Acadian Peninsula, the Centre de Bénévolat de la Péninsule Acadienne Inc. has been asked to play a leading role in providing the management of emergency initiatives put forward by government in order to aid the fish plant workers. In this respect, the Centre de Bénévolat de la Péninsule Acadienne Inc. has a very clear understanding of the current situation in the Acadian Peninsula. The proposed study should clearly identify the repercussions of poverty and the crisis in the fishing industry on the health of young people and permit identification of the most effective action strategies to ensure a better future for our youth.

APPENDIX B

CRITERIA FOR RECRUITMENT OF THE CONSULTANT

Criteria for recruitment of the consultant under the memorandum of agreement between Health Canada and the Centre de Bénévolat de la Péninsule Acadienne Inc. concerning the contract, "Young people, poverty and the crisis in the fishing industry: the situation in the Acadian Peninsula":

The Centre de Bénévolat de la Péninsule Acadienne Inc. determines that the criteria for recruitment of a consultant under memorandum of agreement no. 6540-8-93 which it has signed with Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Canada, represented by the Minister of Health, shall respect the following points:

- have a good knowledge of the socio-economic situation in the Acadian Peninsula;
- have a good knowledge of the situation of youth in the Acadian Peninsula;
- demonstrate skills in the area of public relations;
- demonstrate skills in establishing contacts and links with the various workers in social and economic fields in the Acadian Peninsula;
- demonstrate relevant experience in planning, organizing and assessing (evaluating) consultation activities;
- demonstrate a good knowledge of the media community of the Acadian Peninsula;
- demonstrate a good knowledge of the educational community;
- demonstrate written and oral skills meeting the requirements of this contract.

APPENDIX C

CRITERIA FOR SELECTION OF THE OBSERVERS

Criteria for selection of the observers for choosing a young person to participate in all phases of the project under the memorandum of agreement between Health Canada and the Centre de Bénévolat de la Péninsule Acadienne Inc. concerning the contract, "Young people, poverty and the crisis in the fishing industry: the situation in the Acadian Peninsula":

The Centre de Bénévolat de la Péninsule Acadienne Inc. wishes to offer work experience to a young person enrolled in post-secondary studies either at the New Brunswick Community College, Shippagan Campus or at the Université de Moncton, Shippagan Campus, by enabling him or her to support the consultant selected under memorandum of agreement no. 6540-8-93 which it has signed with Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Canada, represented by the Minister of Health.

Selection criteria

- have a good knowledge of the socio-economic situation in the Acadian Peninsula;
- have a good knowledge of the situation of youth in the Acadian Peninsula;
- be enrolled in post-secondary studies either at the New Brunswick Community College, Shippagan Campus, or the Université de Moncton, Shippagan Campus;
- be prepared to participate in the various work phases of the project;
- be prepared to submit an overall assessment of the experience (a memorandum five to eight pages in length) at the end of the project;
- demonstrate a good knowledge of the educational community;
- demonstrate written and oral skills meeting the requirements of this contract.

APPENDIX D

CRITERIA FOR FORMATION OF THE YOUTH ADVISORY TEAM

Youth coordination

Under the memorandum of agreement between Health Canada and the Centre de Bénévolat de la Péninsule Acadienne Inc. concerning the contract, "Young people, poverty and the crisis in the fishing industry: the situation in the Acadian Peninsula":

The Centre de Bénévolat de la Péninsule Acadienne Inc. undertakes to train a Youth Advisory Team enabling it to support the actions of a consultant under memorandum of agreement no. 6540-8-93 which it has signed with Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Canada, represented by the Minister of Health, thus permitting young people to express themselves and play an active role in the work of this project.

Selection criteria

- have a good knowledge of the situation of youth in the Acadian Peninsula;
- be prepared to participate in the various work phases of the project;
- represent each high school in the Acadian Peninsula, the Centre-Péninsule, the college community and the university community in the Acadian Peninsula.

APPENDIX E

WORKING GROUP RESPONSIBLE TO THE CENTRE DE BÉNÉVOLAT DE LA PÉNINSULE ACADIENNE INC.

Under the memorandum of agreement between Health Canada and the Centre de Bénévolat de la Péninsule Acadienne Inc. concerning the contract, "Young people, poverty and the crisis in the fishing industry: the situation in the Acadian Peninsula":

The Centre de Bénévolat de la Péninsule Acadienne Inc. mandates a Working Group enabling it to support the actions of a consultant under memorandum of agreement no. 6540-8-93 which it has signed with Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Canada, represented by the Minister of Health.

Members of the Working Group

- Léo-Paul Pinet, Executive Director of the Centre de Bénévolat de la Péninsule Acadienne Inc.;
- Barbara Losier, Development Officer for the Mouvement acadien des communautés en santé du Nouveau-Brunswick;
- Mario Doiron, youth worker with the Acadian Peninsula Youth Futures program.

APPENDIX F

DISCUSSION GROUPS

Discussion group questions: The point of view of young people in the Acadian Peninsula

1. The questionnaire has raised the phenomenon of the departure of young people from the Acadian Peninsula. What do you think about it? Would you say that this phenomenon is primarily related to poverty or to the fisheries crisis? What, in your opinion, are the main reasons for these departures?

2. Have you heard about the socio-economic situation of the Acadian Peninsula? Are you concerned about it? What bothers you?

3. Have you heard of the fisheries crisis in the Acadian Peninsula? Are you concerned about it? What bothers you?

4. Are you aware of other factors affecting the economic situation of the Peninsula? Positive factors? Negative factors? Which ones?

5. Do young people have sufficient information, resources and opportunities in the Acadian Peninsula? What would you most like to see?

6. Do you appreciate the quality of life and the vitality of the community available to you in the Acadian Peninsula?

7. What is it like for you to be young, Acadian and living in an isolated, rural region such as the Acadian Peninsula?

8. Do you think you can build a future for yourself in the Acadian Peninsula? Study there, work there, live there? Why? How?

9. What services or resources would you require in order to improve your quality of life, education and work as young people in the Acadian Peninsula?

10. How does one go about it? What are your ideas, your solutions?

11. Do you think that young people have a role to play in these solutions?

12. Do you have anything else to add about the situation being experienced by young people in the Acadian Peninsula?

Discussion group at the Louis-Mailloux High School, Caraquet

Fourteen young people took part in the discussion: eight boys and six girls. Grades 9 to 12. The average age of the participants was 16.1 years.

Departure of young people from the Acadian Peninsula due to the fisheries crisis and to poverty

The participants in the discussion group blame the departure of young people from the Acadian Peninsula on several factors. Often, young people have no choice, because post-secondary institutions are far away or do not offer the diploma they seek. Some also have doubts about the value of a diploma they could obtain in the region, and whether it will be recognized elsewhere.

Since there are fewer businesses here, there is also a shortage of jobs. The jobs available are often at the minimum wage ($5.75 per hour), which they feel is too low.

Debts force students who have completed their post-secondary education to look for better-paid jobs outside the region.

As for the possible relationship between the departure of young people and the fisheries crisis, the participants see the effects, especially when one or more members of their family are working in this sector. They also feel that the decline in the fishing industry may lead to a loss of jobs in other areas. Everything is interrelated: fewer jobs mean less money, and less spending power, and this means less revenue for businesses in other sectors which, in turn, have to cut jobs.

The arrival of new businesses, such as the textile plant announced recently, concerns them; they are wondering whether the jobs created will be given to people from the Acadian Peninsula or to people brought in from the outside.

Concerns due to the socio-economic situation in the Acadian Peninsula

The participants' main concerns about the socio-economic situation in the Acadian Peninsula relate to the poverty of the region, seasonal work, the lack of initiatives and the high rate of illiteracy. They are also very concerned about people leaving for the outside to find work, the fact that there are fewer young people, that there is nothing left and that the region could soon look like a ghost town. What worries them is the danger that those who have to leave will lose their language, culture and identity. They wonder what will become of future generations. Another source of concern is the fact that the real solutions to the problems of the Acadian Peninsula have not yet been found, although people seem to have been looking for solutions for at least 15 years. For participants, remoteness from the large centres does not seem to attract the industries necessary to revive the region's economy.

Concerns of young people with regard to the fisheries crisis

The fisheries crisis raises certain concerns about its repercussions on all other sectors, as mentioned above. Also, the participants feel that it is not obvious that the people in the fishing industry have adapted to other fields, all the more as the fishery is not the only factor responsible for the current socio-economic situation. They find that most of the economic activities in the Acadian Peninsula are seasonal ones, with limited job-creation potential. They also believe that the region does not have much political clout to change things, because the population is too small.

Other factors affecting the economic situation

Another factor affecting the economic situation is the dependency on social programs such as employment insurance and income assistance. As a result, people are not interested in working full time; they rely on income from such programs to make up the shortfall. On the other hand, there are people on employment insurance who are "energetic," want to work, are perhaps not trained for another type of job, but would be prepared to retrain in another field if training were offered in the region. In this they see an opportunity to create centres for training people for the jobs available in the region. Also, they believe it is important to maintain the existing post-secondary institutions in the Acadian Peninsula, such as the Université de Moncton, Shippagan Campus.

In their view, resourceful people should find solutions and not expect everything required for implementing the solutions to be given to them free of charge.

Evaluation of information, resources and opportunities for young people in the Acadian Peninsula

The participants think there are enough information, resources and opportunities for young people in the Acadian Peninsula. They say, however, that young people do not always make the necessary effort and do not use them enough. They deplore the fact that governments too often abolish programs just when they are starting to function well. They would like that to stop because the programs often offer very worthwhile opportunities and experiences for young people.

Evaluation of the quality of life and the vitality of the community

In general, the young people feel that they have a good quality of life. They appreciate living near the sea, the quality of the air, the low crime rate, the wide open spaces, the absence of wars and natural disasters, greater freedom than in the big cities, the fact that they are more relaxed, that they can choose their friends, that there are no bad groups of people (e.g., Hell's Angels), that there is room for everyone, that there are no lineups for activities, and that the region is safe. The fact that there are not many jobs spoils this idyllic picture. In the view of some participants, quality of life depends on whether you are rich or poor: there is a big gap between the two, they say, with no happy medium.

Living in a rural community when one is young and Acadian

Young people are affected in different ways by being Acadians living in an isolated, rural region such as the Acadian Peninsula. A number say that "it's boring," and that there is not enough to do, since activities are limited, mainly for certain age groups and especially their own. Some find the situation very bad, because of the lack of opportunities. Others say they prefer to organize their own recreation and activities.

In an isolated, rural area, everyone knows everyone else, so people are closer to each other. However, this situation has its negative side, for everyone knows everything about everyone else. This leads very quickly to the social phenomenon of "prejudice," which has a very negative impact on the self-esteem of young people. According to them, young people who commit an error or do not respect the established order are "labelled" and are not even given a second chance. Moreover, young people set great importance on dress. In the opinion of many, it is easy to distinguish between those who have money and those who have less, or none at all, on the basis of the clothes they wear. This often leads to the creation of "clans." Opinions are divided on the mixing of young people from different social classes; some say it is possible, other are of the opposite view.

Future prospects for young people in the Acadian Peninsula

Do young people think they can build a future for themselves in the Acadian Peninsula, in order to study, work and live there? On this aspect, views differ, but the majority see possibilities, provided certain conditions are met.

For those who want to live in the Acadian Peninsula, the means of succeeding are different: one wants to come back after receiving his education and thinks he will be able to work and succeed. Another says that it is possible, because some worthwhile employment opportunities do exist in certain trades. Another participant sees opportunities for new businesses, and thus an opportunity to create his own business. Others say that one can live in the Acadian Peninsula if one is creative and develops new things. Some think it is possible if government assistance is available for developing new business ideas. According to another young person, there is a demand for certain skills and he sees worthwhile opportunities in that area. Others feel that since the cost of living is proportional to the wages in the region, it will still be possible for them to live in the Acadian Peninsula.

A number of participants see no future prospects in the Acadian Peninsula. The main reasons are that there are not enough jobs; choice is limited in terms of specializations; incomes are not high enough, particularly for specialists such as doctors; the post-secondary institutions are limited; and there is not enough population to start up new initiatives, particularly in specialized fields.

Young people's needs for services and resources

To improve their quality of life, education and work in the Acadian Peninsula, young people would like to receive training better adapted to their personal needs. They feel that tourism services, including beaches and activities, should be expanded. This would make it possible to keep visitors in the region for a longer period, with benefits for businesses and, for young people, new job opportunities.

The young people say that the negative image being circulated regarding the Peninsula ("We're poor, we're nothing.") has to stop. This mentality has to be changed, and we must adopt a positive attitude toward ourselves and the region. It is also necessary to promote a positive image of the Acadian Peninsula on the outside. Participants refer to reports in the media which tend to show only the "sordid reality" side of the Acadian Peninsula, such as demonstrations, "although we are not backward people and we do have things to show and say."

Ideas and solutions

To do these things, young people suggest that it is necessary to attract investors, people who have new ideas, who are willing to develop and work. We could make use of the above-mentioned elements relating to the quality of life to attract retired people with money to settle in the Acadian Peninsula. These people will need recreational services, health services and the like, and this would lead to the creation of jobs and thus encourage young people to stay in the region.

Role of young people

- Continue their education.
- Stop dropping out.
- Make school more interesting.
- Be more disciplined.
- Become involved.
- Stop being the victims of prejudice.
- Stand together.
- Be consulted and be free to express their opinions.

General comments on the situation being experienced by young people in the Acadian Peninsula

The participants believe that young people under 16 years of age should be able to obtain casual work in order to meet certain needs. The question of prejudice bothers them a good deal. They feel that people should not be judged on appearances. Being rich or more intelligent does not necessarily mean one will succeed in life; quite often, the opposite happens. The important thing is to live what one believes.

The discussion ended with the finding that the self-esteem of many people is low.

Discussion group at the W.-A.-Losier High School, Tracadie-Sheila

Twelve young people – six boys and six girls in Grades 9 to12 – took part in the discussion. The average age of participants was 15.9 years.

Departure of young people from the Acadian Peninsula due to the fisheries crisis and to poverty

For this group of participants, the departure of young people from the Acadian Peninsula is related to poverty and other factors including the lack of well-paid jobs and the discrimination of many employers against young people, who are underpaid for the work required. Because of this situation, they cannot properly meet their primary needs (accommodation, food, clothing). Young people also believe that the lack of activities, prejudices against them and lack of respect are other reasons that drive them away. They are of the opinion that jobs are more diversified, more specialized and better paid elsewhere.

Concerns due to the socio-economic situation in the Acadian Peninsula

With regard to their concerns and worries about the socio-economic situation in the Acadian Peninsula, young people find that it is difficult to create viable businesses in the region, because the population is small. They note that people often spend their money outside the area because there is not enough choice in the Peninsula. However, they are aware that this practice has negative impacts on the Peninsula's economy, because the money circulates outside the region.

They are also concerned by the fact that wages are very low, that most employers cannot pay more and that people are caught in a vicious circle. In their opinion, governments make very little effort to attract large industries and convince them to set up in the Acadian Peninsula. According to some, dependence on social programs is another factor which does not help the region's economy. They agree that some people sometimes have no choice but to turn to income assistance, but they believe that many people abuse the system. Young people say they often hear remarks such as, "This year, I want to do so many hours to get my unemployment," and not, "This year, I want to earn so much money so I can afford such and such a thing, like a car, or a trip, etc." They have the feeling that people want many things, but that they are not prepared to make the effort to obtain them. They also think that many people have gotten into the habit of counting on employment insurance as their principal livelihood, after only a few weeks' work, which does not encourage them to be creative and forge ahead.

Concerns of young people with regard to the fisheries crisis

As for the situation in the fisheries sector, participants said they did not know what the fisheries crisis was and, instead, asked for explanations. In their view, the fisheries have to do with the fishermen, in a world that is intentionally very closed.

Other factors affecting the economic situation
The fact that most work is seasonal – in natural resource fields such as fishing, peat harvesting, farming and logging – is another factor affecting the socio-economic situation in the Acadian Peninsula.

Evaluation of information, resources and opportunities for young people in the Acadian Peninsula
Young people think there is not enough information available about the resources and opportunities intended for them. Often, they hear about them over the radio, though usually by word of mouth. In their view, the daily newspaper deals with many big stories that are happening elsewhere. They would like to know more about the activities and opportunities in the region. They suggest that the Acadian Peninsula needs an information tool, a monthly activities newsletter which would cover everything happening here.

Evaluation of the quality of life and the vitality of the community
Their evaluations of the quality of life and the vitality of the community differ somewhat. Many say there are not enough activities for them in the region. This frustrates them to the point of making them want to go away. They deplore the fact that even the Maison des jeunes does not offer activities which can interest them.

Others say they appreciate the quality of the air, the open spaces, nature, and greater freedom and safety than in the big cities. They come back, however, to the fact that they more often than not have to organize themselves into groups and create their own activities. Since services are not as accessible as in the larger centres (there is not a grocery store on every street corner), and since public transportation does not exist, it costs more to get around. Because many young people cannot afford it, they cannot always take advantage of what exists or is going on in the Acadian Peninsula, and this is detrimental to their quality of life.

Living in a rural community when one is young and Acadian
Being a young Acadian and living in an isolated, rural community seems to be having a fairly detrimental effect on the young people who took part in the discussion. Everyone knows everyone else, and it seems that this often has an influence on the opportunities available to them. If a young person knows someone influential or if someone in their immediate or extended family holds an important position, their chances of getting a job are better. Some think that it is nearly impossible to succeed without these connections. This is an issue of discrimination and unequal treatment for them, depending on "who you are, who you know and who you associate with."

The group emphasized the importance placed by the community on gossip and word of mouth. Many young people are victims of prejudice because of the magnitude which an isolated or harmless incident can assume. When a young person is pointed at by society, it becomes impossible for him/her to escape and he/she feels truly rejected. How can one

hope to find a job under such conditions? The group feel that people should "mind their own business" and leave young people in peace.

Future prospects for young people in the Acadian Peninsula

The majority of the participants in the discussion group did not feel they can build a future for themselves in the Acadian Peninsula. The reasons given were that the cost of education is too high and that this is an impediment to continuing their education. Since some fields of study and some kinds of jobs are not available in the Acadian Peninsula, they have no other choice than to go away. Since the selection of courses is greater and more varied in other provinces, for the same price as here, they are encouraged to leave, all the more as they say they have better chances of getting an adequately paid job when they graduate.

Young people's needs for services and resources

As for the services and resources necessary for improving their quality of life, education and work in the Acadian Peninsula, most of the participants said that there is a need for more jobs specifically for young people, particularly summer jobs. They suggested that working conditions be improved and that efforts be made to adapt them to the specific needs of young people, especially those who are working part time while they study. Hours should be more flexible, for combining education and work is often a cause of stress.

Education should be more accessible; this would increase the level of schooling in the Peninsula. In this way, people would be less dependent on seasonal jobs which require less training, and could find steadier employment.

The young people spoke of the role of guidance counsellors in the schools. They felt that these counsellors should be better informed about training and job opportunities. They criticized the way in which counsellors sometimes seem to want to influence them in their choice of a post-secondary institution, and even in their choice of a career. According to the participants, guidance counsellors should be impartial when giving advice.

The group would like programs to be set up which place a value on education and would thus encourage young people to continue their studies. They also see the necessity of creating meeting places for young people in communities, in order to practice activities (e.g., a skate park).

Ideas and solutions

The young people had some ideas about solutions which could improve the situation. They would like the Université de Moncton, Shippagan Campus, to offer a greater choice of full courses. At present, the possibilities of obtaining a baccalaureate degree are very limited because the campus only offers the first two years of the bachelor's program, and then only in a few disciplines. The group suggested that a special post-secondary

education assistance fund be created to help young people in the Acadian Peninsula who cannot afford to pursue their education. They felt that the distribution of scholarships should be more equitable, in the sense that they should reward young people's efforts to succeed, and not be based solely on their performance.

Role of young people

According to the participants in the discussion, young people can play a certain role in seeking solutions. First, they said that young people should be involved in groups and organized activities; however, they think it is very difficult for a young person to become involved in making things change. The phenomenon of mentalities, the lack of confidentiality at all levels, even among professionals, makes them very distrustful. Rather than face ridicule or rejection, they prefer to give up. It is in the school that they believe they have the best chance of playing a role in achieving change. By becoming involved personally, then by encouraging ("boosting") others to participate, they can become "catalysts." They can also play a role in the development of special activities for young people by using the existing resources in the region, such as nature. Finally, they realize that they have to stop being passive and waiting for others to do things or make decisions for them.

General comments on the situation being experienced by young people in the Acadian Peninsula

Among the other points to be added concerning their situation in the Acadian Peninsula, the issue of self-esteem dominated by a wide margin. According to participants, the gap between high and low self-esteem is as great as the gap between the rich and the poor. Many young people do not find it easy to raise their level of self-esteem. The possibilities of pursuing one's training in a field in which one excels are very limited (e.g., hockey, singing). Jealousy of those who succeed or who have some talent causes a great deal of wrong. People often try to humiliate such achievers. Another factor which has an effect on self-esteem is that one is not accepted for who one is. The phenomenon of social classes also emerged, in the sense that people see a distinction in the way young people dress.

Another phenomenon which bothers them is that of the "clans" which prevents young people from being involved in certain fields of activity. The "preps" (high or advantaged class) too often turn up on student councils, and for that reason many young people have no interest in participating in council-organized activities. The young people state, however, that it is very important that there be plenty of activities at the school which young people are interested in attending, for that is the place where they spend a large part of their time.

Discussion group at the Marie-Esther High School, Shippagan

Six young people took part in the discussion: three boys and three girls, in Grades 9 to 11. Their average age was 15.2 years.

Departure of young people from the Acadian Peninsula due to the fisheries crisis and to poverty

The young people of this area think that the fisheries crisis is related to the current situation. As for poverty, they believe the situation is not too serious and that it is not the main factor underlying the departure of young people. In their view, people tend to go away because there are no jobs. They add that there are no jobs because there are not enough businesses, that there are not enough businesses because there are not enough people, and that one cannot attract new people because there are no jobs. In their opinion, it is a vicious circle.

Concerns due to the socio-economic situation in the Acadian Peninsula

As for the socio-economic situation in the Acadian Peninsula, young people are concerned about the lack of jobs and are worried about what the future has in store for them. They would like to be able to live here, but they do not want to depend on employment insurance. Another concern is that natural resources are the main sources of jobs. These resources are dwindling and only create seasonal jobs. What worries young people is the fact that there do not seem to be any alternate solutions for when the resources are completely exhausted. For them, this means that opportunities are few in the region.

Some regard the Peninsula as a "hole." There are not enough people and not enough initiatives to launch businesses. They note that when a person opens a business and it seems to be doing well, someone else opens another similar one, to undercut the first one.

Concerns of young people with regard to the fisheries crisis

As for the fisheries crisis, the participants are very concerned about the depletion of the stocks and are worried about the future of this sector.

Other factors affecting the economic situation

The lack of schooling and the lack of large industries are other factors that affect the socio-economic situation in the Acadian Peninsula. Added to this is the dependence on employment insurance and income assistance programs. Young people feel that because people rely on these programs, they have not had to make an effort to manage on their own. They agree that some people really need the programs, but that there are many who take too much advantage of them. The rules for eligibility for these programs have changed, and this may have positive repercussions, in that people will have to be more creative and force themselves somewhat to look for solutions and find them.

The aging of the population is another source of concern for the participants, but they see it as an opportunity for creating jobs in the health field.

Evaluation of information, resources and opportunities for young people in the Acadian Peninsula

Young people feel that enough information and resources are available for them in the Acadian Peninsula, especially at school. They think that perhaps they do not make sufficient use of the services available. Others admit that they would not confide in a psychologist if they had problems. They would turn instead to their networks of friends; it is important for them to have someone to talk to.

Evaluation of the quality of life and the vitality of the community

Turning to the quality of life and the vitality of the community, young people appreciate the fact that they live in a peaceful region, near the sea, which is safe, where crime is minimal compared to the big cities, and where they enjoy greater freedom. On the other hand, there are not many activities for them. Just the same, they mention access to clubs for the under-19-year-olds, which are not found in the large centres, even though they have to travel half an hour to get there. The Maison des jeunes is another place, but they say they do not often go there, because it is not their "gang."

Living in a rural community when one is young and Acadian

The fact of being young and Acadian and living in an isolated, rural community has many repercussions for the group. First of all, they say they are proud of their Acadian roots and prepared to defend them. Others think it is "really neat" that everyone knows everyone else. On the other hand, there is a consensus that young people do not have much power and do not feel they are being listened to. According to them, services discriminate against young people (e.g., calls are not returned).

They admit that there is prejudice against young people from different "gangs" and from different areas. Several terms are used when speaking of a given gang. However, they state that there are no gang wars, as in other regions; people are on speaking terms.

Young people contend that they all have prejudices, in the sense that everyone talks about everyone else without even realizing it. This has several consequences, including the feeling of being rejected. There are people who may be above all this, but there are many who are not. Because they feel excluded, some young people no longer have any self-esteem. This may lead to tragic events such as suicide. The young people say that the question of suicide is rarely brought up among them, especially not in groups, in school or in the classroom. The only place where the subject can be discussed is within a self-help group.

According to the participants, it is very difficult to detect serious problems in a young person, because they do not talk about it. Their behaviour may seem normal so that no

one suspects that they may be thinking of suicide. It is when they find themselves facing a *fait accompli* that they realize it, and this troubles them enormously.

They believe that the situation in the Acadian Peninsula may cause such actions, in the sense that by hearing constantly about the problems in the region, in addition to having one's personal problems, one finally believes that one can no longer make it.

Future prospects for young people in the Acadian Peninsula
The group had divided opinions about the possibilities of building a future for themselves in the Acadian Peninsula. For some, to do so is out of the question, because they hear that there is nothing or that there is not enough choice. Another participant does not know, but wants to try; he would like to be able to live in the region. For others, everything will depend on what doors open up for them. If they receive an attractive offer here, or elsewhere, they will not turn it down.

Young people's needs for services and resources
All are of the opinion that more jobs, more training places and more industries are necessary in order to improve the quality of life, education and work in the Acadian Peninsula.

Ideas and solutions
The young people stated that it would be easier to express their ideas for solutions if they could form groups. Communication then becomes easier and the chances of reaching a consensus are greater. For them, working in a group to seek solutions would be much more motivating. When one is alone with an idea, one does not know whether it is valid or realistic, while in a group, there may be several people sharing the same vision.

Role of young people
Young people have to play a role in seeking solutions, because they represent the future. However, it is not easy for them to make themselves heard and to get people to listen to them. All are of the opinion that they should be consulted about the things which concern them.

General comments on the situation being experienced by young people in the Acadian Peninsula
The participants would like to follow up on the group discussion in which they took part. They would like concrete actions to be taken so that the process is not merely an exercise in "talking for the sake of talking."

Given the situation in the Acadian Peninsula, they want to know where to get information and how to go about doing something. They feel a bit helpless and powerless, given the size of the task.

Student debts, uncertainty about the future and job opportunities are matters of great concern to them. For them, education is very important: it is the foundation, but they find that it is not accessible to all young people.

With respect to the economic situation, they note that certain companies or corporations in the region want to exercise a monopoly. In their view, competition may be, at the same time, both good and bad for small businesses in small communities such as those in the region.

Discussion group at the New Brunswick Community College at the Université de Moncton, Shippagan Campus

Nine young people – seven boys and two girls – took part. The group's average age was 19.0 years.

Departure of young people from the Acadian Peninsula due to the fisheries crisis and to poverty

According to this group, the departure of young people from the Acadian Peninsula is related as much to the fisheries crisis as to poverty. They think that this phenomenon is also related to other factors, such as isolation, lack of employment, low wages, the absence of large companies and people's lack of courage to invest in the region. In addition, they feel that there is a tendency for people to compete in the same field, instead of starting up a business in a complementary field; this often leads to the closure of businesses.

Concerns of young people with regard to the fisheries crisis

Many see the fisheries crisis as the result of a poor distribution of the wealth generated by this industry. The comments of some to the effect that "the boat captains have the cash" seem to illustrate the fact that there are only a small group of people getting rich in this sector.

Other factors affecting the economic situation

Among the other factors which may be affecting the socio-economic situation in the Acadian Peninsula, they emphasized the lack of assistance for students and the limited number of opportunities offered to them. The lack of permanent jobs, according to them, is a dominant factor. They explain that it is difficult to achieve a worthwhile living standard when most of the jobs are seasonal and one has to depend on employment insurance in order to survive the rest of the year. Also, the lack of education prevents a fair number of people from accessing other opportunities.

The participants found that the combination of seasonal work and social programs providing a livelihood has led to dependence on the system, preventing people from "moving around" and looking for something better. They also note that many people prefer to live on income assistance instead of working for the minimum wage, because it costs them less.

Evaluation of information, resources and opportunities for young people in the Acadian Peninsula

Adequate resources and information for young people exist; what is lacking is opportunity. In services, quality is the area where there are deficiencies. The participants had some criticisms to make about guidance services. According to them, young people are not always directed toward the avenues that interest them. Also, they do not believe that young people are adequately informed about employment trends and openings.

Evaluation of the quality of life and the vitality of the community
Young people say they like the Acadian Peninsula because it is a quiet place, a beautiful, safe area. There are plenty of open spaces and the air is clean.

Living in a rural community when one is young and Acadian
For this group, being young and living in an isolated community entails both drawbacks and consequences. First of all, it requires a great deal of travel to the outside to access services that are offered in the large centres.

There is little to do, although one enjoys greater freedom (there is no curfew, as in certain large cities). Some say that there are more activities for young people in the Peninsula than in some big centres. For the most part, people go about their activities in "gangs," often outside the region. They say they have to create their own leisure activities.

They also spoke of the phenomenon of social classes which exists in their educational setting, but which is much less obvious and important than in high school. At the College, they feel they are more at the same level.

However, as the Acadian Peninsula is a small region, everyone knows everyone else, and this leaves plenty of room for prejudice. The participants say that one has to be careful with what one says, one must always please people and never go against the mentality of the region, or else run the risk of being excluded. When this occurs, young people tend to turn in on themselves, which results in a loss of self-esteem.

The difficulty in obtaining work is another consequence of living in a small community. According to the participants, one has to know someone important or be related in order to get a job.

Future prospects for young people in the Acadian Peninsula
Many respondents think they cannot remain in the Peninsula. However, if they obtained a paying job, they would do so, since they like the place because of its peacefulness. Others want to leave for the big centres, where there are better prospects for the future.

Some see opportunities in the setting up of the new textile plant, where technological training will be required for certain positions.

Young people's needs for services and resources
To improve their quality of life, education and work as young people, a fair number of participants want better access to loans to enable them to pursue their studies. In addition, they want the system for allocating scholarships to be more equitable. In their view, there is a need for other large plants like the one that is to set up soon in the Acadian Peninsula. They need jobs which require specialized training, since that would have the effect of motivating young people to continue their education. They feel that

well-paid jobs need to be created to encourage people to break with their dependence on social programs and remain in the region.

Ideas and solutions

To succeed, people have to be given the necessary training. Many people have left the Peninsula with good training, but those who have remained have little or not enough. This means that more places must be created at the Community College so that those who need training can access it.

The participants took a favourable view of the creation of a community college in the Acadian Peninsula, but believe that it will be necessary for its leaders to set aside their parochialism so that the institution can be centralized and well equipped. They are afraid that fragmentation will harm its development. The group voiced the comment that "distance education is no good."

Role of young people

As for the role they have to play in these situations, the young people think they can help change mentalities by starting gradually to set the example themselves.

They wish to be consulted as a group. They find that in a group it is easier to find solutions and to coordinate their efforts. An exercise such as the one in which they have participated as part of this project interests them.

General comments on the situation being experienced by young people in the Acadian Peninsula

Among other points, the question of youth suicide was raised. The participants say they talk about it when the situation occurs, but that this changes nothing. This is a subject that frightens people, so they prefer not to think and not to talk about it. They state that they do not understand how such tragedies exist.

They attribute the phenomenon to a lack of respect for others. This results in a lowering of self-esteem to the point where the person does not see any possible way out. The participants suggested that individuals who have attempted suicide but pulled through give their testimony, in order to sensitize young people and help them talk about it. Other participants spoke of another effect, that of peer rejection, that leads young people to kill themselves, as we saw in Colorado. All participants but one were opposed to the use of such means. This led them to raise another issue: tolerance that sometimes turns to intolerance and can result in actions that cannot be undone.

Discussion group at the Université de Moncton, Shippagan Campus

Four young people – three boys and one girl – took part. The average age of the group was 18.7 years.

Departure of young people from the Acadian Peninsula due to the fisheries crisis and to poverty

This group is of the opinion that the departure of young people from the Acadian Peninsula is related both to poverty and to the fisheries crisis : "One doesn't come without the other." Since the fishery is a significant industry for the region, the crisis in this sector has consequences.

The special nature of the Université de Moncton, Shippagan Campus, where only the first two years of certain baccalaureate programs are offered, is one of the reasons why young people leave. When they leave the region to complete their studies, the chances that they will return are slim, for they integrate into a different social network and quite often find jobs. The advantages of studying in a large city are numerous, if only on account of the transportation system. Participants drew attention to the fact that the Université de Moncton, Shippagan Campus, lacks the necessary services to support the infrastructure. They feel the isolation of the institution.

Concerns due to the socio-economic situation in the Acadian Peninsula

Turning to their concerns about the socio-economic situation in the Acadian Peninsula, the group noted that those who could do something to activate the economy invest their money elsewhere. No one invests in the Peninsula because there is nothing to invest in, and there is nothing to invest in because nobody invests: we always come back to a vicious circle.

One peculiarity of the region, they believe, is that the fishermen, who are among the richest people in the Peninsula, have little if any education. They think that this is one of the reasons such people do not invest their money in the region to drive the economy.

Concerns of young people with regard to the fisheries crisis

Another finding that concerns the group is that natural resources are exported from the region for processing, which means that immediate profit is more important than long-term development. Other concerns include the lack of full-time jobs due to the seasonal nature of the great majority of jobs, the low wages, and people's habit of working only long enough to collect their employment insurance.

Other factors affecting the economic situation

The participants identified other factors that, in their opinion, affect the socio-economic situation in the Acadian Peninsula. One is the lack of skilled manpower and the lack of skilled jobs, which leads to an outflow of young graduates to the big cities because the opportunities are better there, and they have debts to pay. Moreover, they note that the

minimum wage does not encourage people to work and that they tend instead to depend on employment insurance or income assistance. Those who work for the minimum wage cannot drive the economy, because they have barely enough money to meet their essential needs. This state of affairs encourages undeclared work; even though it is illegal, people often have no choice if they want to make ends meet.

However, they do see employment opportunities as the baby boomers retire. But they are convinced that entrepreneurs will have to offer worthwhile wages for non-managers if they wish to attract young people.

Another factor affecting the socio-economic situation is people's reluctance to go into business because they have to assume all the risks, including the risk that there will be a smaller population, a smaller volume of sales and a risk of having to sell their products at a higher price than elsewhere in order to make their business profitable. The participants also point out that people tend to open a business similar to one that is successful, either to cut the ground from under its feet, or out of fear of it flourishing or being better than their own. There do not seem to be any innovative ideas.

Evaluation of information, resources and opportunities for young people in the Acadian Peninsula

According to the group, there are very few resources or opportunities for the young people of the Acadian Peninsula.

Evaluation of the quality of life and the vitality of the community

As for the quality and vitality of the community, the young people state that there are few activities, because the population is not large enough to make them worthwhile. Also, people cannot afford to go out; they just live. They say they appreciate the quality and safety of the community, although it is less safe for the women than for the men.

Living in a rural community when one is young and Acadian

According to the participants, the fact of knowing everyone has some advantages, provided one is on the right path. Those who are borderline or marginal in relation to the whole are discriminated against because of prejudice. Young people also deplore the lack of services, such as stores, which leads them to look to the outside for purchases, especially of clothing.

Future prospects for young people in the Acadian Peninsula

The group does not see many future prospects for themselves in the Acadian Peninsula. Since the Shippagan Campus does not offer four-year courses, they have to complete their studies in other places, where they are offered good jobs.

Young people's needs for services and resources

The participants expressed some ideas for improving the quality of life, education and work in the Acadian Peninsula. First, they think that the success of the recruitment

campaign of the Université de Moncton, Shippagan Campus, should serve as an argument for offering more four-year courses. According to them, a single four-year program would be better for the institution than four two-year courses, because young people would be obtaining their university degree in the region. They welcome the creation of a new baccalaureate degree in information management at the Université de Moncton, Shippagan Campus. With such a degree, young people would be able to get a job while remaining in the Acadian Peninsula.

Ideas and solutions

To arrive at some solutions to the problems and findings emerging from this exercise, the group suggested supporting people who depend on social programs to help them escape from the system, which takes away any spirit of initiative and costs them their self-esteem.

They see the importance of training workers to become professionals in their trade. In addition, they feel that a campaign to promote the Acadian Peninsula should be set up in order to change the negative atmosphere that prevails in the region into a positive attitude. This could have a positive effect not only on the people of the region, but also on tourists.

Role of young people

The young people think they have a role to play in changing mentalities. In their view, the only way to change the mentality lies in the change of generations. Being better educated, they will have more initiative, and they will have learned to think and to develop a different and broader vision. They believe, however, that help from the outside will be required in order to change the situation in a concrete way.

They believe that the role of young people could be more important if a program were set up in the schools, starting in Grade 7, with the objective of instilling regional development values. They are of the view that the change in mentality would then be more rapid.

General comments on the situation being experienced by young people in the Acadian Peninsula

Turning to the situation being experienced by young people in the Acadian Peninsula, the question of the differences between social classes was discussed. In the experience of participants, the differences are less important at a university level than in high school. People have more respect for the opinions of others, even though "certain select groups" still exist. They also note a mentality in which the community college is inferior to the university. They comment that at the secondary level, there is a lack of value placed on young people who are gifted for manual tasks and less direction is provided for them.

Finally, they are concerned by the lack of accessibility to post-secondary studies for all. It is urgent, they conclude, that this problem be resolved.

APPENDIX G

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE ACADIAN PENINSULA

The Centre de Bénévolat de la Péninsule Acadienne is conducting a study on the situation of young people in the Acadian Peninsula in order to identify strategies and solutions for working with young people to improve their health and quality of life.
If you are a young person between 13 and 21 years of age in the Acadian Peninsula, thank you for completing this questionnaire.

(You don't need to give your name. All responses will be handled confidentially.)

1. How old are you? (Check the appropriate box.)

13 years	00	14 years	03	15 years	10	16 years	10	17 years	07
18 years	09	19 years	08	20 years	04	21 years	01	Other (specify)	00

2. Sex (Check the appropriate box.)

Male 28 Female 24

3. Level of schooling (Check the highest level attained or the one in which you are enrolled.)

00 Less than Grade 8 (specify grade)
32 Less than Grade 12 (specify grade) 8 (1) 9 (10) 10 (5) 11 (8) 12 (6)
00 Secondary school diploma
20 Post-secondary study
Number of years completed: 1 (10) 2 (04)
Diploma sought (specify field): Medicine, psychology, archeology, mechanics, computer science, networking, medical/legal secretarial, business data processing, nursing, business administration.

4. Place of residence

Locality
Bas-Caraquet (3) Bertrand (1) Brantville (1) Burnsville (1) Caraquet (6) Inkerman (2) Lamèque (2) Paquetville (5) Pointe-des-Robichaud (1) Pokemouche (1) Pont-LaFrance (1) Pont-Landry (1) Shippagan (12) Saint-Isidore (1) Saint-Léolin (1) Sainte-Marie-Saint-Raphäel (2) Saint-Sauveur (1) Tracadie-Sheila (6)

Where do you live? (Check the appropriate box.)

41	With your parents	00	With spouse and/or children
06	Apartment	00	Room
05	Other (specify): guardians, grandparents, foster family		

5. Origin

Were you born in the Acadian Peninsula? (Check the appropriate box.)

Yes 41 No 11 Don't know 00

If not, where?

Bathurst, N.B. (2) Miramichi, N.B. (2) Niagara Falls, Ont. (1) Calgary, Alta. (1) Moncton, N.B. (1) Port-Cartier, Que. (1) Saint-Sauveur, N.B. (1) Windsor, Ont. (1)

6. Language

Your mother tongue? (Check the appropriate box.)

01	English	51	French	00	Other (specify)

Do you speak French? (Check all the appropriate boxes.)

- at home	Yes 52	No 00
- at school	Yes 52	No 00
- at work	Yes 52	No 00
- with your friends	Yes 52	No 01
- in leisure activities	Yes 52	No 02
- everywhere	Yes 45	No 07

Are you proud of being an Acadian?

Yes 47 No 00 Not sure 05

Why?

Proud of our language and culture, of what we are (6); sense of belonging (5); concept of a distinct people (5); Acadian National Holiday August 15; important to keep our roots; we are survivors (6); peaceful place where life is good; people simple and honest; nice culture; people warm and friendly; people are talking about us; customs of our ancestors; we're asserting our rights; have divided feelings; not always proud of the image projected of us; not always resourceful; not Acadian, starting to integrate.

7. Family and personal situation (Check all the appropriate boxes.)

Are you?

50 Single 00 Married 02 Living common law 00 Separated/divorced

Number of children (if any) _____
Ages of children (if any) _____
Are your children dependent on you? 00 Yes 00 No 00 Partly

Are your parents?
33 Married 10 Separated/Divorced 05 Living common law
04 Single-parent family 00 Other (specify)

8. Family and personal income (Check all the appropriate boxes.)

Your main source of income
39 Parents and family 00 Full-time job 21 Part-time job
12 Bursary or student loan 01 Employment insurance 02 Income assistance
01 Other (specify): Family allowance

Your annual personal income (Check only one box.)
36 Under $5,000 08 $5,000 to $9,999 01 $10,000 to $14,999
00 $15,000 to $19,999 00 $20,000 to $29,999 00 $30,000 or more

Your family's main source of income (Check only one box.)
37 Full-time employment 03 Seasonal employment 03Part-time employment
03 Unemployed 00 Employment insurance 02 Income assistance
03 Other (specify): Old age pension and family allowance; self-employed (contract) worker

Your family's annual income (Check only one box.)
01 Under $5,000 00 $5,000 to $9,999 00 $10,000 to $14,999
01 $15,000 to $19,999 05 $20,000 to $29,999 19 $30,000 or more
23 Don't know

9. Working conditions (To be completed by those who have already held a job.)

Have you already held a job, or are you holding one now? (Check all the appropriate boxes.)
08 Full-time 10 Seasonal 32 Part-time

What type(s) of job(s)?
Fish plant (3); cashier (7); babysitter (3); restaurant waitress (4); summer camp monitor (2); bus boy (3); pump attendant (4); labourer (2); swimming instructor (1); laboratory technician (1); hotel receptionist (1); textile plant (1); sales representative (2); Internet access centre (1); delivery for restaurant (1); tennis trainer (1); housekeeper in seniors' home (1); circular delivery (1); mobile canteen (1); student association (1); summer student job (1); clerk (1); special-needs residence (1).

Where is/was the job? (Check only one box.)
38 In the Acadian Peninsula 03 Elsewhere

Were or are you satisfied with the working conditions offered on your job(s)? (Check only one box.)
Yes 30 No 05 Not sure 06

Why?
Uncomfortable position for working; poorly paid for the work done; good boss; good wages (6); enjoyed seniors; too much work and responsibility for little money; too much overtime, not enough hours off; respected; liked the work; close to home (3); good conditions; underpaid; too much stress; good atmosphere; good job; it depends on employers; whiny bosses (2); sexism; good for the region; schedule suited me; wages and benefits (leave, insurance, etc.); respected; good communication; no breaks.

10. Interest in work (To be completed by those without jobs.)

Why are you without work? (Check all the appropriate boxes.)

06 Too young	02 Personal choice	00 Family choice
22 Studying	05 Didn't find work	01 Lack of experience
00 Little education	00 Lack of training	00 No means of transportation

01 Other (specify): Plant closed

Are you interested in getting a job at this time? (Check only one box.)
Yes 19 No 11 Not sure 02

Why?
To have my own money/pocket money (8); to pay for my education and my personal needs (3); have no money left; for the experience; like serving people; young people are entitled to have money to spend; too busy with studies which are a priority (8); have a very full personal life.

If yes, type of job desired? (Check all the appropriate boxes.)
06 Full-time 15 Part-time

In what field(s)?
Mechanics; any field (3); informatics (5); music; food service; municipal affairs; tourism; waitress in licenced bar; administration; anything but garbage collector.

11. Interest in studies

Are you interested in continuing your studies? (Check only one box.)
Yes 48 No 00 Not sure 04

Why?
To have a job (11); to obtain a degree and be assured of a good future; to make my dream come true; to succeed in life (3); to have a stable job and a good salary; need a degree to make a career; to receive professional training; to prepare my future; to become someone, be happy; costs too much; so as not to depend on employment insurance; so as not to have think about it any more, am fed up.

What educational level would you like to attain? (Check all the appropriate boxes.)
14 Grade 12 24 College diploma 00 General diploma
15 Bachelor's degree 13 Master's/doctorate 03 Trade school diploma

In what field?
Education; aviation; engineering; psychology (3); medicine (4); health care; medical secretarial; mechanics; machinery; oceanography; archeology; hairdressing; haute cuisine; bioethics (2); informatics (11); networking; business technology; science; tourism; biology; secretarial; nursing; business administration (4); marketing; pharmacology.

Why?
Area of interest (15); dream to be fulfilled (3); field with a future (4); enriching experience leading to a career (2); to succeed in life (4); to go far in life; like to listen to and help people (2); like computers; good openings; to live comfortably; to have my own business (2).

Where do you think you will pursue your studies? (Check only one box.)
10 In the Acadian Peninsula 33 Elsewhere 08 Don't know yet

Why?
Course not offered in the Acadian Peninsula (16); better quality elsewhere (3); no good place to study here; bursaries accessible elsewhere; nothing around here; to get a change of air; more specialized and more openings for young people elsewhere; course available here; close to family; future in the field in the Acadian Peninsula; want to live in the Acadian Peninsula; better marks here.

12. Leisure Activities

What are your preferred leisure activities?
Reading (12); computer (9); activities; going out with friends (7); music (7); going to the club (5); driving around (4); in-line skating (5); television (6); sports (24); laughing, having fun; relaxing; playing cards; parlour games; drawing (2); movies (3); video games; chatting; dance (2); fishing; boating; writing; studies.

Do you practice a sport or physical activity? (Check only one box.)
Yes, regularly 28 Occasionally 20 No, not often 04

What type(s) of sport or activity?
Gym (3); badminton (4); basketball (3); walking (6); soccer (5); bicycling (4); swimming (4); volleyball (3); baseball (3); foot racing (3); exercise (3); billiards (3); hockey (2); snowboarding (2); sailboarding; waterskiing; ringette; cross-country skiing; tennis (2); bodybuilding (3); tae bo (2); karate; handball; football; canoeing; Alpine skiing; golf; cardiovascular training.

Are you involved in groups or committees? (Check only one box.)
Yes 20 No 32

If yes, which ones?
Student council (4); mutual assistance committee (2); student radio (2); yearbook; committee chairperson; youth consultation; academic senate; bursaries and programs committee; student newspaper; Reach for the Top; class president; hockey team; youth team trainer; graduates committee; swimming club; bowling group; billiard room committee.

Why?
Like it, for new experience; important to be involved (6); to talk to people (3); like to make people laugh; to have good music played; interest in photography; to pass the time; interesting, it's my life, love it; learn a lot; make lots of contacts; for leadership; like to help and listen to people.

13. Social network

Do you have friends? (Check only one box.)
Yes, many 47 Some 05 No, not really 00

Do you have someone you can talk to about anything, in whom you can confide when you have problems? (Check only one box.)
Yes 51 No 01 Not sure 00

Who? (Check all the appropriate boxes.)
Friends 46 Family 31 Community resources 01 Professionals 03
Other (specify) 00

14. Lifestyles

Do you consider that you eat properly? (Check only one box.)
Yes 33 No 09 Not sure 10

Why?
Parents see to it at home (3); eat a balanced diet (5); never skip meals; in good health; pay attention to what I eat; I can afford good food; good diet is a priority at home; to keep myself

in shape; eat few vegetables; the family can't afford to buy fruit; eat junk food; eat fat foods; don't eat all the essential nutritious foods.

How many meals a day do you eat?
two meals (7); three meals (33); four meals (7); five meals (2)

Do you smoke? (Check only one box.)
Yes 12 No 38 Refuse to answer 00

If yes, how many cigarettes per day?
2 (1); 5 or 6 (1); 6 or 7 (1); 8 to 10 (1); 10 (1); 10 to 15 (2); 12 (2); one pack (1)

Why?
Out of habit (6); it relaxes me (2); cannot do without them; it's good (2); don't know; can't stop; trying to stop (2); stress; it's dumb.

Do you drink alcohol?
Yes 40 No 10 Refuse to answer 00

If yes, how often?
Occasionally 35 Regularly 01 Socially 05

Do you use or have you used drugs other than cigarettes? (Check only one box.)
Yes 23 No 28 Refuse to answer 01

If yes, what kind of drug?
Marijuana (8); pot (10); hashish (12); cannabis (1); soft drugs (1); Benize (wake-up) (1); acid (1); psylifiline (1).

How often?
Occasionally 12 Regularly 01 Socially 06

Do you take medication? (Check only one box.)
Yes 13 No 38 Refuse to answer 01

If yes, what kind of medication?
Antibiotic; for asthma; contraceptives; for the thyroid gland; Stelnalite; Ritalin; Reactine for allergies; Aspirin; Midol.

How often? Occasionally 05 Continuously 08

Do you suffer from a disease or do you have to live with a handicap?
Yes 07 No 45 Refuse to answer 00

If yes, what type of disease/handicap?
Asthma (2); hypothyroidism; myopia; psoriasis; vein in brain too small, suffer from fainting spells and memory loss.

Have you ever visited a doctor or received other medical treatment?
Yes 46 No 04 Refuse to answer 01

If yes, why?
Pneumonia (3); flu (6); fractures (4); operation (4); alcohol intoxication (2); mononucleosis (2); tonsillitis (3); serious injuries (2); asthma (3); allergies; thyroid problems; back problems; annual examination; thought I was pregnant; nosebleeds during childhood.

Have you ever had sexual relations? (Check only one box.)
Yes 31 No 16 Refuse to answer 04

If yes, number of partners?
Only one (13) Between two and five (14) More than five (04)

Do you protect yourself? (Check only one box.)
Yes 24 No 03 Sometimes 04 Refuse to answer 01

If yes, how?
Contraceptive pill (10); condoms (18); diaphragm (1); needle taken by girlfriend (1); several ways (1).

15. Interest in remaining in the Acadian Peninsula

Do you like living in the Acadian Peninsula? (Check only one box.)
Yes 32 No 09 Not sure 11

Why? (Check all the appropriate boxes.)

39	Tranquil area	15	It's boring around here
33	Open spaces	16	Lack of activities and action
34	Close to the sea	10	Too isolated
33	Natural beauty	17	Far from the big cities
27	Pleasant environment	08	Community too closed
27	Purity of the air	18	Few opportunities
24	Safe area	23	No jobs
34	Network of friends	16	No places for young people
30	Family ties	14	Mentality too narrow
17	Interesting activities	07	Parochialism
06	Economy acceptable	14	Difficult socio-economic situation
19	Everyone knows everyone else	08	People look out only for themselves

13	Good services available	02	To get away from family and friends
10	Satisfactory resources	10	To see something else
01	Other (specify):	13	Need to seek adventure elsewhere
	New experience	11	Lack of help for young people

Do you know young people who have left the Acadian Peninsula? (Check only one box.)
Yes 51 No 01

Why do you think they left? (Check all the appropriate boxes.)

39	For education	19	Moved
41	Got a job on the outside	20	Fed up with this area
12	To see something else	22	To have a new experience
37	To look for work	12	To get away from family
01	To get away from circle of friends	07	To escape
18	There was nothing for them around here	22	To be on their own
06	Fell in love with someone from away	08	Had no choice
00	Other (specify)		

16. Concerns about living environment

Have you ever discussed the social and economic situation of the Acadian Peninsula with anyone?
Yes 35 No 17

If yes, with whom?
Parents/family 25 Friends 19 At school 19 Community resources 03
Other (specify): advisory group (1); discussion group (2).

How often? Occasionally 21 Regularly 10

What concerns you the most?
No jobs (16); the lack of respect for young people; wages insufficient to pay the bills and support a family; the black hole; there is nothing for young people; the departure of the thinkers and specialists; seasonal work; the lack of money; finances; difficult economic situation; the poor and poverty; the future; lack of education; unemployment.

17. Comments

Do you have any other comments to make about your situation or that of young people generally in the Acadian Peninsula?

- There aren't many jobs; that is the main reason why young people leave; the diversified jobs are elsewhere.

- The economic situation is difficult; there is no future here.
- Not enough effort devoted to young people, whether to stop their exodus or to put activities in place for them.
- Limited choice about their future; parents cannot afford to send them to be educated and the government ignores them.
- Education takes a long time and costs a lot.
- Young people tend to leave the Acadian Peninsula for Quebec and elsewhere because there are far more activities, attractions and jobs.
- Not enough openings and the jobs are poorly paid.
- Difficult situation, especially for francophones who wish to make it elsewhere.
- Not enough well-paid work to earn a living in the Acadian Peninsula.
- Difficult economic situation for young people, too centered on the fisheries.
- Sorry to see young people leave for an education and get picked up elsewhere: we need new industries and sources of jobs.
- Lack of activities for adolescents, and municipal politicians do not think about young people.
- Need for more places for young people to meet for leisure activities and discussions.
- Young people don't have an adequate right to express their opinions.
- Existence of prejudices against young people looking for work.
- Difficulty for a young person to get recruited without experience (how can you acquire experience if no one gives you a chance?).
- Jobs for young people are scarce and the wages are too low.

(Thank you for taking the time to participate in our study!)